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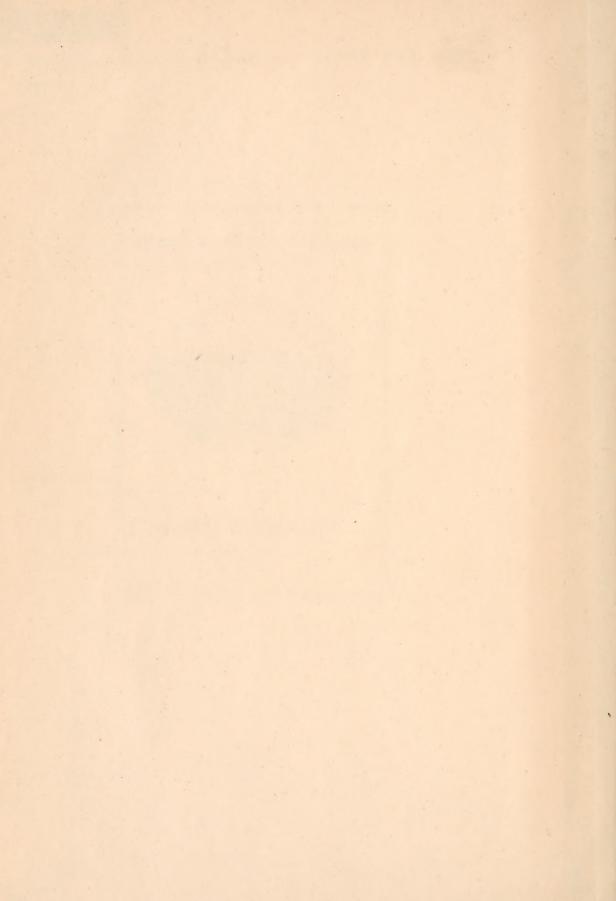
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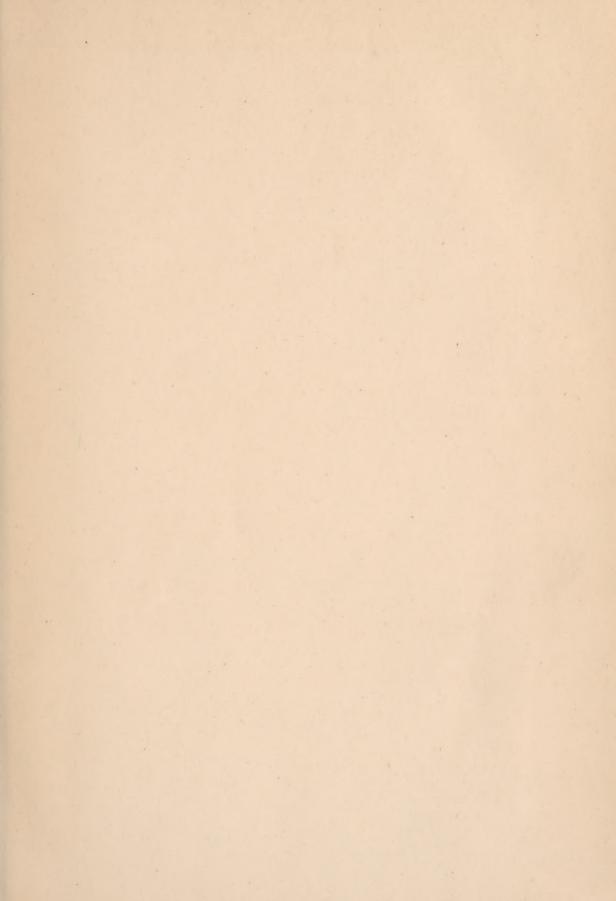
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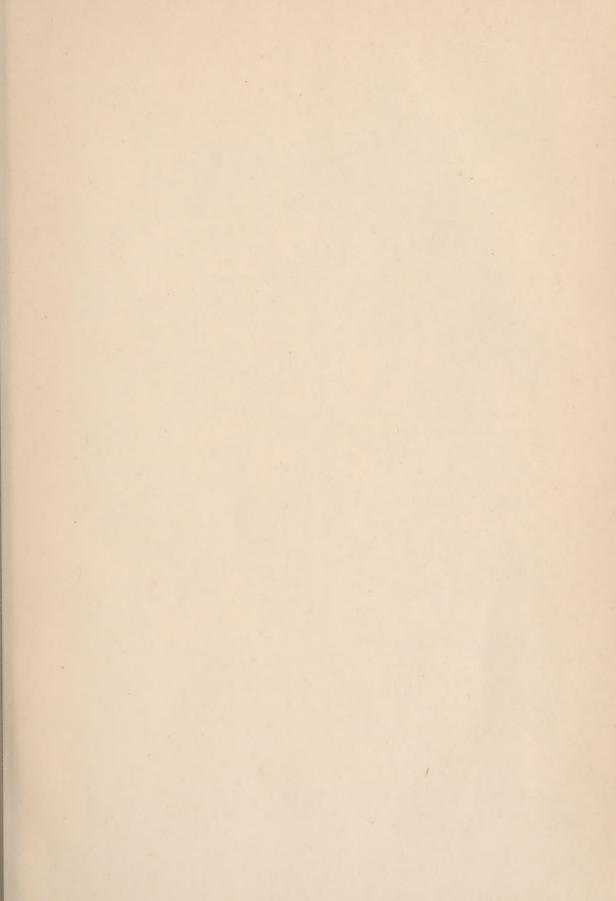
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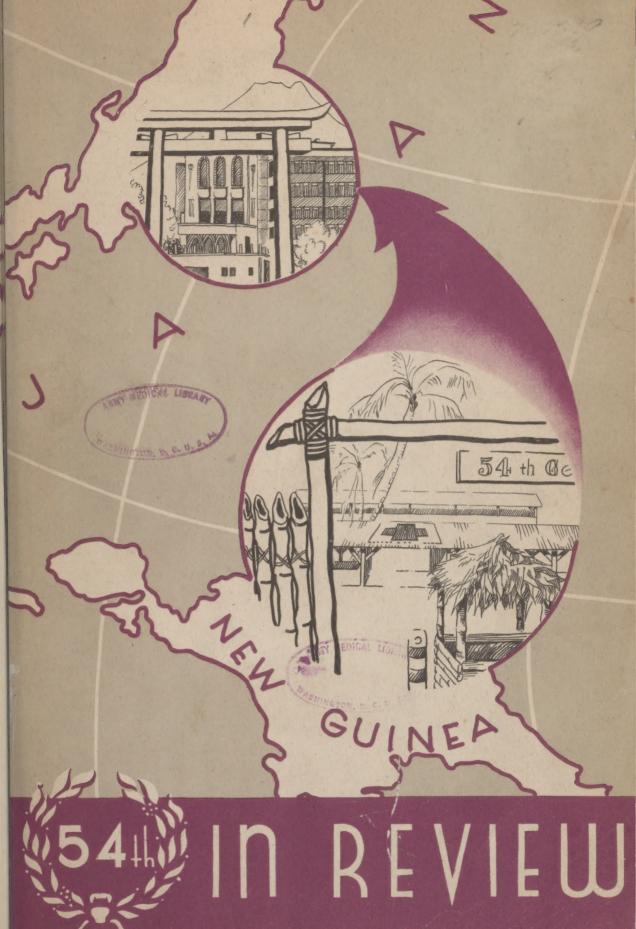


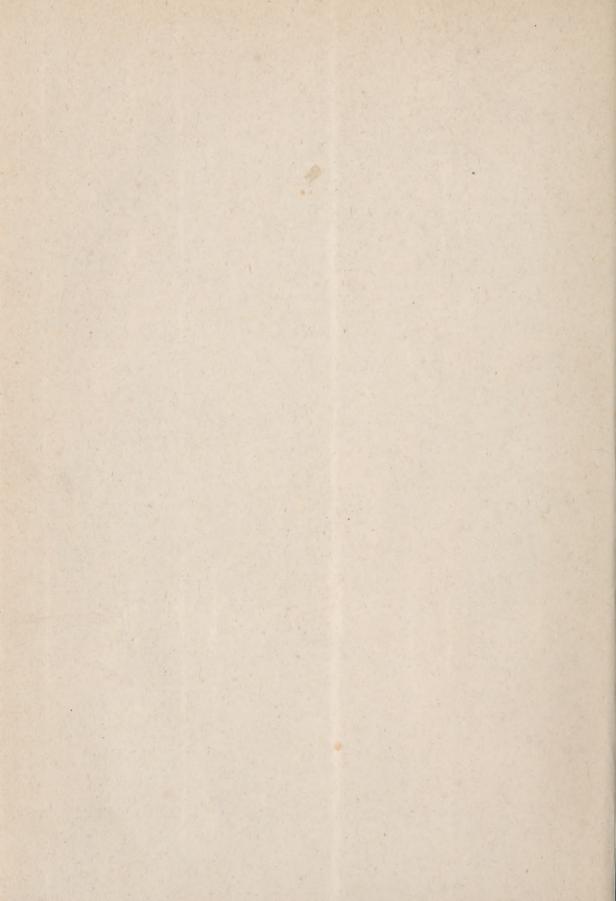












54th IN REVIEW

1943

A resume of the activities of the 54th General Hospital,

1945

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ROSTER



"54th IN REVIEW" was made possible by the combined efforts of officers and men of the unit Philip A. Schaefer, Editor; Sheldon R. Uday and Bruce W. Eckert, Staff Writers; Kenneth J. Gee and Franklin R. Young, Advisors. Special thanks to Kenneth Mensing, Melvin Hill, Malcolm E. Whitten, John Varenholt, David Schlaifer, Chaplain Peter Bissett and others who contributed ideas and photographs.

Dedication

"54th In Review" is dedicated to the men and women of the 54th General Hospital, who lived, worked and died in the spirit of service.

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in memoriam

Lieutenant Colonel Herman H. Jacobsen

First Lieutenant David E. Vogan Private
Ollie M. Nelms



The time has come for the 54th, as it must for all, sometime, someday, somewhere, to close the book of one period and to open the pages of another.

It is with mixed emotions and feelings that I look back to the first hour of the first day and mentally review the individuals and events that have made the history of the 54th. It is rare indeed that a commanding officer has the privilege of seeing a unit born, grow into maturity, complete its mission, and return to that Valhalla from which all good hospitals come.

To each of the varied elements may be given an especial vote of thanks: to the enlisted personnel, the backbone and foundation of the unit; to the nurses, dietitians, and physiotherapists who made possible adequate care of the sick; to the officers who integrated the varied functions of the unit and provided patient professional care; to representatives of the American Red Cross for performance beyond the call of duty; to each and every one who contributed according to his or her ability to the accomplishment of the task set for us all.

It is not to say good-by, for to say good-by is to die a little. The body moves on but the spirit remains to constitute what was and is the 54th. some day perhaps to be activated in the flesh in time of need.

Tokyo, Japan 16 December 1945 John M. Caldwell, Jr. Colonel, Medical Corps Commanding

flumpaldures.

HEADQUARTERS

54th General Hospital Army Service Forces, Unit Training Center Camp Ellis, Illinois

(G. O. ORDER) (No. 1) 25 May 1943

- I. ACTIVATION OF 54TH GENERAL HOSPITAL: Pursuant to authority for activation contained in GO #91, 6th Service Command Dated 28 April 1943, as announced in Section III GO #11, Hq ASFUTC, Camp Ellis Illinois, dated 23 May, 1943, the 54th General Hospital is activated at Camp Ellis Illinois, effective 0001 25 May, 1943.
- II. ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND: Pursuant to provisions of paragraph 6, AR 600 20, and directive contained in Section I, paragraph 10, SO #118, War Department, Washington, D. C., dated 28 April, 1943, the undersigned hereby assumes command of the 54th General Hospital.
- III. APPOINTMENT OF STAFF: The following temporary appointments to the staff, this Hq, are announced:

Executive Officer—CAPTAIN ELSON J. MASTERS, 0507708, MC.
Adjutant—SECOND LIEUTENANT LEON POMERANCE (NMI), 01546717,
Med Adm C.

JOHN M. CALDWELL, JR. Lieutenant Colonel, MC Commanding

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by T Sgt James E. Wood

On 25 May 1943, under orders as the cadre of a hospital to be reactivated, ten officers and thirty enlisted men reported for duty at Camp Ellis, Illinois. There, under the command of Colonel John M. Caldwell, Jr., they formed the nucleus of a unit to be called the 54th General Hospital.

Soon more men reported for duty, and within a few weeks an organization which had existed before only on paper, became a fact, as these pioneers settled down to the training necessary to run a General Hospital.

As Army Camps go, Camp Ellis was not bad. It was new and most of the buildings were one-storied, temporary structures which were more protection against rain than cold. The Illinois farmland grounds were either dusty or muddy, depending upon whether or not rain was falling. There were several small towns nearby, and Peoria and Chicago were within easy motoring distance, but as organized transportation was almost nonexistent, most men made their way to and from camp by the use of their thumbs.

For the men in the 54th, however, these aspects of Camp Ellis had no immediate significance. As recruits reported for duty, they were interviewed and classified as to their capabilities, training, and desires for work, then assigned to classes designed to fit them for the job ahead.

The task of forming and training a General Hospital Unit was a large one, and necessitated a concentrated effort on the part of every man. Classes in various types of technical training had been set up by Medical Group Headquarters, and a large percentage of the men were assigned to one of these groups. In addition, there were classes in cooking, and Mess-management, classes for truck drivers, and classes for clerks. Within the unit itself, a similar program was set up, and included among other subjects, basic drill, (Who can forget Ramey's "Hup, tup, thre-up, ho!"), military courtesy, personal and unit sanitation etc. An ampitheatre

was built in one section of the area, and all classes were organized and run by our officers and NCO's.

Many were the gripes that were expressed, and many were the times when someone, not recognizing the immediate meaning of a particular phase of the work, remarked bitterly, "Now why the hell did they have to do that?" But, by and large, those same men, in recurrent bullsessions, were able to look back and recall those first heetic days with a cheerful glow over the memory.

Our First Move

An impending move for any unit, fortells itself by the necessary activity which predates a change of station, and the first move of the 54th was no exception to that rule. For a week before the men entrained, rumors were flying thick and fast. "We're going East", "No, it's West", "You're crazy—we're heading for a POE, sure!", "Georgia", "South Carolina", "Kansas",.....Kansas! By the time we got aboard those dusty day coaches that Tuesday morning, nearly everyone was certain that we were heading for Kansas, so on the morning of 3 September 1943, nobody seemed particularly surprised when, after two days and nights of riding, the train finally was brought to a stop where a sign read "Whitside". Some of the men notably Dick Keller were particularly happy because they now would be almost at their own doorsteps, but boys from the East, who had never ventured west of the Hudson, expected to be attacked by Indians in this wild, bleak country.

Our work at Ft Riley was to assist in the operation of the Station Hospital, and within two or three days, the second phase of the Unit's training began. In

TO TOKYO



the assignments at Fort Riley, all previous training was put to a practical use, under the theory that a man learns faster and more thoroughly by actual practice. Ward men, laboratory men, technicians of all sorts, as well as clerks, were given jobs which they would actually perform when we set up our own hospital, and every man became inclined to take a personal or even proprietory interest in his job.

With the assignment to Fort Riley also went an enlarged recreational life. For the first time since the outfit had been formed, access was provided to a good Post Theatre system and an adequate Post Exchange System. Then, too, the Fort was flanked on one side by the town of Junction City and on the other, by the city of Manhattan, both of which were served by bus lines which operated with a pleasing regularity. In one or the other of these towns, the men could find the desired and much-needed relaxation from their daily tasks which they had not been able to get at Camp Ellis. Within a short time after our arrival at the post both of these towns became known as "54th" towns. If neither Manhattan or Junction City could produce the desired effect, Kansas City and other points were within a three or four hour train ride and could be visited on almost any week-end, if the duty status permitted.

As a training unit, inspections became almost a daily routine. It was not unusual to be called from your job at any time to be inspected in field work and hospital training. As a matter of fact, unit training had not ceased when the men began working in the hospital, for two afternoons a week were given over to such things as basic drill, infiltration training tactics, training films, and lectures on map-reading, and logistics, and field marches were scheduled at regular intervals. So that a man might become accustomed to working under adverse conditions, a part of such training was conducted at night, and a few men who were undergoing the unit program will never forget the nights when ward tents were set up, struck, and set up again. While the monotony and grind of field work and hospital training called forth additional bitches, it bore fruit, nevertheless, for not once did the 54th fail to draw praise from inspecting officers. How well they learned their lessons, was to be proven later when those same men, working under conditions which were far worse than those encountered at Fort Riley, did a better job and in less time.

As time went by, physical changes were made in the organizational set-up. Some men, however outstanding their qualities as individuals, just did not fit into the organization, and these men were gradually weeded out and replacements were brought in. Men were shifted from one department to another until the right place was found for them.

By the end of October, with so many men drawn from the Station Hospital through transfers that it was far under strength, the burden of running the hospital actually began to fall on the men of the 54th. They, in turn, assumed that responsibility although it entailed more work in some cases, longer hours than had been necessary before. The men were beginning to feel their growing knowledge and took an obvious pride in demonstrating it to others.

Getting "Hot"

Along in November every man in the outfit who had not been on furlough within 6 months, was given a leave of 7 to 12 days, which gave birth to a rumor that soon we'd be on our way. In December, when most of the men had returned, it seemed positive that we were about to leave for an overseas station,

IN OUR MANY MILES OF TRAVEL WE HAD

.....Classes at Camp





....KP at Fort Riley



... .pecs at Hollandia



.....Geisha Girls at Tokyo

the only question being whether we would go to the European or the Pacific Theatre. By rumor, also, we learned that the advent of our nursing and medical complement would herald the closeness of our coming departure, so when the nurses and the remainder of our medical officers began to report in for duty, it seemed certain that something was brewing. Three successive clothing checks were made to be sure that all clothing and equipment were in a serviceable condition, and a physical examination to determine fitness for overseas duty was made which eliminated a small part of our personnel. For those that remained, there was only the waiting which preceded the order to move.

For almost 2 months we waited and waited, and at last came a day when freight cars were shunted onto a side track and supplies were leaded into them. An advance party left for an unknown destination, and finally, came the order, "No man will be out on pass after midnight, 27 February 1944". When the order came to leave February 28, the men leaded onto troop trains, enreute for what turned out to be Camp Stoneman and an ocean trip for some part of the Pacific battle line.

Hawaii? India? New Guinea?

The few days spent at Camp Stoneman were filled by more clothing checks, practice sessions at "abandon ship" drill, K.P. and other details, but finally we were ordered to leave on March 7th. After a hike of several miles, we were loaded on a ferry and taken to the main docks where the Troopship "Lurline" awaited us.

The ship, which traveled alone, did not actually leave the harbor until the next day, and, as it pulled out into the bay, most of the men gazed upon the Golden Gate Bridge and wondered how much time would pass before it would be seen



Medics ?????

again. Many of the men aboard had never been on an ocean voyage before, and a few days were to pass before the routine of the ship was settled. Some passengers were never able to get their sea-legs and suffered for the entire trip. but most of them were able to eat, play and generally enjoy the voyage. After sixteen days at sea, however, everyone was tired of the water, and when the first sight of land was announced, nobody regretted its appearance. In fact, so many persons rushed to the rails, that the ship's Captain had to order the decks cleated before a safety factor could be effected.

Several hours after the anchor was dropped, the troops began to disembark, and the 54th personnel started to land at the blackest 11 P.M. they'd ever seen. All men clambered into "ducks", which carried them to the shore, and thence to the camp site. There was no light except for that of several fires, and preparations for the rest of the night consisted of grabbing the first available shelter and dropping off to sleep.

This Was It!

At 0400, the bugle was sounded, and a few moments later, the 54th General Hospital had began its days as an overseas Unit, at Milne Bay, New Guinea. Those first five months were such that we wondered if we were to ever operate as a hospital or not. Almost as soon as we landed, we were faced with the task of clearing and moving into a jungle area within three very wet days, and, with no opportunity to set up a camp properly, several hundred men were called upon to furnish labor details for odd jobs around the Base. Pipe lines had to be laid and several hospitals had to be built, or reconstructed. There were details for the Quartermaster Depot, the Engineer Depot, the docks, and any other tasks that seemed necessary. There was plenty of water in fact, there was too much of it but it was all rain which fell night and day. For a period of seven or eight weeks, water for washing and drinking had to be trucked in, and not until the closing weeks of our stay at Milne Bay, was it possible to obtain adequate facilities for bathing.

After five months of rain, mud, and manual labor, orders were received for the Unit to move to Hollandia, in Dutch New Guinea, for the purpose of setting up a hospital. The advance party of about 120 men left Aug. 1 on the Hospital Ship "Comfort", to be followed on the 7th by the main body of troops. The entire unit was re-assembled at Hollandia on the 14th, where again the clearing of a jungle area was immediately begun but this time for our own hospital. As soon as sufficient clearing was provided, terraces were scraped out, and the men began to erect Australian pre-fabricated buildings, in which the hospital was to be housed.

The original plan of the hospital called for a 1000-bed unit to be laid out with the Administrative buildings along the front, the two sections of wards ranging up the hill on either side of the area, and the mess halls, clinics, supply buildings, and services in the middle. Before the original construction could be completed, however, the plans had to be changed to accommodate an enlarged patient and detachment capacity, when the 54th was ordered to take over additional buildings formerly occupied by another general hospital in the area adjacent to ours and to absorb personnel to almost double its former strength. With these additions, the 54th became a 2000-bed hospital, with an actual expansion capacity of 1500, and was the largest general hospital overseas.

On the 13th of October 1944, we began operation with the admission of 430 patients, and then on the 25th of October, with the coming of the first casualties from the invasion at Leyte, all departments began to work at top speed in an effort



In our Philippines scrapbook...... the silver altar in the Batangas Cathedral and a scene typical of the lazy town.

which had no appreciative let-down for many months.

The training of the hospital personnel had been as extensive and complete as rigid planning had been able to make it, and yet actual operation as a hospital un-



covered unforeseen difficulties which had to be met. It was to the Unit's credit that nothing arose which was not solved in some satisfactory manner so that the job of providing adequate medical attention was uninterrupted. During the first weeks, many a ward man, and those on construction details worked his way through days that seemed to have no end, and when he was finally able to stop, was too tired to do anything other than fall in bed and drop off to sleep. Gradually, though, as operation became routine, men learned to accomplish more work in less time, and as more time became available for relaxation, an organized athletic schedule was set up in which nearly everyone took part, either as participants or spectators. Nerves and bodies which had become run-down as a result of overwork, again were able to re-act in a normal manner to everyday life.

About the 1st of November, death which had struck the first time at Milne Bay in taking away 1st Lt. Vogan, one of the medical officers, paid us another visit. Ollie Nelms, a ward man who had been on duty in an "A" Ramp ward, died as a result of injuries received when a tree was blown over during a wind storm. Later on, other men had to be boarded and sent to the States because of disease or injury, but further fatalities did not occur.

Probably the greatest single contribution to the welfare and comfort of the 54th's personnel at Hollandia was the operation of a laundry by Sgt. Joe Japczyk and his crew. By exercising ingenuity, hard work, and sweat, they enabled all officers and enlisted men to get their clothes washed once a week, without the back-breaking task of doing it themselves in their "spare" time.

We Leave New Guinea

On 14 July 1945, nine months and 18,000-odd patients after it had opened for business, the 54th closed down and began to pack its equipment in preparation for a further move. On July 18th, an advance party left for the Philippines, to be followed on August 3rd by another group with a part of the hospital supplies on an LST. About two days later, the remainder of the Unit, with the exception

of a small rear detachment, bearded a Navy APA and steamed off on what was to be its most comfortable and eventful trip. The sea was calm, the food was good, and several days out from the Philippines, the news was received that Japan had been hit by the first Atomic Bomb. Not a man was aboard ship who did not immediately envisage the surrender of Japan and the eventual return home of all U.S. troops overseas. At last came the word that the Japanese had accepted the terms and would capitulate the actual signing to be done on September 2nd.

The sudden surrender of the Japanese had put an immediate stop to the plans for the 54th to be set up in the Philippines, and for two months, we staged at Batangas. Some of the men were sent on detached service with other organizations, some took over and operated dispensaries on the Base and some were set to work around the Detachment area. Passes to Manila and other points were liberally issued, and some of the comforts of civilization were provided by the surrounding towns nearby. Also to be found were the old reliable rain and mud, while high winds occasionally swept in and blew down or damaged tents. All water had to be trucked in, but, by now, it seemed to go farther and was less of an inconvenience.

On September 28, came the word to load aboard ship for a journey to Japan where we were to be a part of the Occupation Army. Since there had been several "false alarms" before, no one knew whether or not to believe this order. Factual confirmation was not long in coming, however, as the job of loading did begin the next day. About noon of the 30th, we were told, that due to an error

in the computation of shipping space, the ship would be completely loaded with cargo by nightfall and that the personnel of the Unit would get aboard at that time. Again confusion reigned, as all tents were hurriedly struck and personal equipment packed. Leaving a detachment of fifty men behind to complete the loading on another ship, the rest of the men climbed on for another trip.



Loading at Batangas for our last move

End of the Trail

The journey to Japan was uneventful for two or three days until warnings of an impending typhoon were received, and the entire convoy turned and steamed back in the direction from which it had come. This same maneuver was repeated several times in order to avoid going into the path of the storm. As the ship neared the Japanese homeland, we felt chills in the air for the first time in nearly two years, and the day we headed into Yokohama Harbor was definitely cold. The field jackets which had appeared so foolish in the heat of the tropics now were appreciatively worn as every effort was made to keep warm. With the unloading of the cargo completed by the morning of October 13th, all personnel that had remained aboard disembarked and began the short overland trek to Tokyo and a new work.



... and the rains came

Various parts of the United States have a total rainfall above the average, and the men in the 54th who lived in those sections of the country thought they knew what was meant by the word "downpour". But, as the expression goes, "they hadn't seen nothing yet".

Milne Bay, New Guinea, on the night we disembarked, did not pre ent much of a picture. Here and there were lights where the unloading of cargo was going on, but they didn't extend to the point where we were anchored, and the journey, by duck, from the ship to the camp site was not a cheerful one. Came the dawn, and the picture changed somewhat. The trees and the undergrowth were of different kind from that to which we had been accustomed, but it was on land afterall, and everyone figured that much could be done to make conditions more livable. When the order came to clear out and move into a jungle area within a prescribed three days, the outlook darkened again because of a drizzling rain that made a muddy mess of everything. But the job was completed, and the men moved in as planned.

Tents were drained of water and floored with interlacing palm fronds, overlaid with gravel, and if the company streets were still muddy, why, we could put up with that for awhile. A few days of sunlight followed so that clothes and streets began to dry out, and again a cheerful attitude pervaded the atmosphere.

The deluge began one morning, as such things usually do, with a light rain

which continued on into the rest of the week. Some parts of the area that had dried out, again became thoroughly soaked, and the ditches on which work had been started, began to carry its load of overflow out of the camp. Some inconvenience was caused, but the situation wasn't too bad since the insides of most tents were still dry, and a fellow could get a good night's sleep in comparative comfort. Several nights later, however, a strong wind swept up and began to rock both tents and trees violently. Once in a while, an errant cocoanut would tumble down, to thud into a tent or to splatter harmlessly on the ground, or a palm frond would rip off and fall swishingly, causing a momentary uneasiness. About 2 o'clock on that memorable night, the camp was awakend to the sound of cracking trees and tent poles and by the wild yells of men as tents billowed down about them. It was suddenly realized that both the rain and the wind had increased to titanic proportions and that a steady stream of water was running through the entire area. Morning brought the sight of water surging in from the hills and carrying in its tide branches, tree-trunks, and GI equipment from the encampments above us, intermingled with the gatherings from our area.

Morning, too, brought many strange sights. Men coming out of their submerged



Volleyball court

tents with that "So-this-is-the-tropics" look about them, as they struggled to pick up scattered and soaked equipment; Sgt. Olga dashing about in blue swimming trunks and white cap, getting details organized; men wading sleepily thru knee-deep water and mud to the Mess (and it really was) Hall. All these things combined to make the situation not only a tragic, but a funny incident as well. But we didn't stand and gaze or laugh long

Immediately, everyone went to work on a series of log dikes, re-enforced by walls of dirt and debris, in an effort to divert the water to natural drains. Axes, shovels, and every available tool and vehicle were used, and, for a while, such efforts appeared to be successful. But just as dusk began to set in, a veritable wall of water drove in on us and washed away the larger part of the day's work. Men who had labored all day in water knee-deep, again began to throw up

protections against the flood, working till late in the evening by the light of truck and flashlight. Some of the water was turned, but there was just more than could be handled, and when the level rose to a waist depth, all men were called in and told to shift as best they could to keep dry for the night.

By morning, the worst was over, and, aided by the embankments set up the night before, the water which covered four-fifths of the camp began to recede. Exactly how much damage was done that day probably will never be known, for much was buried securely under the shifting silt that was a part of the flood, and much more was simply washed out into the bay. The damage was general in its scope, hitting the ranking officer as thoroughly as the buck private with an impartial fury. About one-fourth of the tents were down on the ground or sagging. Trees and branches littered the area, clothes and equipment were either ruined by the water or scattered between us and the bay and all of the improvement in the new area was washed away. A new start was made. Clothing and equipment were replaced, tents reraised, paths laid out, and soon the flood was only a memory which would crop up once in a while in one of the inevitable bull sessions of the later months.

Perhaps such an introduction to New Guinea was a good thing, for, thereafter, mud and water that ordinarily would have caused sharp incovenience were disregarded as being insignificant. The men of the 54th sloughed on through difficulties of all sorts, with a lighter frame of mind, to accomplish the mission for which they had been sent to the Island – feeling that nothing could be as bad as those experiences through which they had already passed.



The Army's Largest Hospital Overseas

by Tec. 5 Sheldon R. Uday

Under the broiling Hollandia sun a race was taking place, a race against time. We didn't realize it then as we sweated out there in the steaming jungle, trying to clear it away as fast as possible. We only knew it was long hours of hard work, chopping down trees, leveling off areas, laying cement, putting up prefabricated buildings. We only knew that there was a water shortage, leaving us generally without showers, even causing the Mess sometimes to skimp on meals; we only knew that there was little to do in the evenings, much to be done during the day. But still we didn't complain very much and morale was higher than it had been since coming overseas. For we were building our own hospital this time, preparing for our own job, getting ready to begin the mission we had been sent overseas to fulfill. And so we toiled out there under that blazing hot sun,

day after day, and before our very eyes we saw a hospital take shape, we saw nature's primitive jungles give way before the determination of man, and in its place a miniature city rise. This was the 54th.

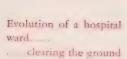
The completion of the hospital took place just barely in time. We had won the race, for shortly thereafter American forces landed in the Philippines and on October 25th we received our first battle casualties from Leyte. Who will ever forget that first day? The long string of ambulances that began streaming in late in the afternoon, the wounded patients ying there so silently, the hustle and bustle and noise and confusion. Plenty of us felt a strange sensation seeing the wounded coming in with bitterness in their eyes, yet with a feeling of relief written on their faces for having gotten out of it alive. "My God," perhaps you thought, "it could have been me." It was a very depressing scene.

And on through the night it went. Excited, harried clerks and technicians hurrying about trying to find out "where does this guy go?" "B Row isn't ready, send him over to D," might have been the reply. But as the wee hours of the morning crept in, the snarl gradually became undone and all of our first battle casualties were bedded down; and in the new light of morning Surgery started right in operating on a full schedule, every room in use throughout the day.

We Settle Down

Gradually, slowly, the confusion and excitement of those early days was replaced by a smooth, well-ordered routine. Although the hospital kept opening up new wards, expanding day by day, sprawling out in all directions, there appeared on the surface a certain calmness, a feeling almost of casualness. But underneath that surface lay the nerves of that hospital stretched taut as a drum, vibrating to the surpressed tension and urgency of the moment. Under that surface beat the heart of the hospital, pulsing to the rush and the drama and the go, go, go of each day. Under that surface lay a whole new world which "outsiders" didn't often see. But when they did, they saw the everyday drama of the fight to save a man's life, a man's mind, a man's limb. And we—the doctors and men and nurses—were among the contestants in that fight, we were the heart and the pulse and nerves of the hospital.

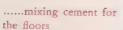
The patients kept pouring in, and by mid-November the hospital was jammed. There was more than enough work for all hands. Surgety was busy operating every minute possible (61 cases were operated on in one 13-hour period) and ward technicians, those unsung heroes of the hospital, were putting in twelve back-breaking hours every day. Doctors and nurses were caring for more patients than they ever had before. There was no letup, no days off, only work and more work. The food in those early days wasn't coming in up to standard and there wasn't much in the way of recreation in the evenings, except for movies. But then not many of us had enough pep left at the end of the day for anything







.....putting up the Australian pre-fab framework





.....finished ward and utility room with maximum light and air.



The morning lineup of ambulances—end of the journey for a Leyte casualty.

much except to "hit the sack." You sometimes wondered how everyone kept going, yourself included, but you get your answer by looking at those guys lying there in bed, all shot up but never complaining. Sometimes they were a little bitter at first and you could see that scared look in their eyes, but after you had taken care of them for a few days they would smile and really appreciate what you were doing for them. The thanks of a doughfoot was what kept you going.

It was quite a sight to see, our hospital in its fullest days. Throughout the area you could

see Joes hobbling around on crutches, spurning help from anyone, even when crossing deep ditches. And you could go down to the amputation ward and see how cheerful and optimistic those guys were even with a leg or an arm cut off, and it made you feel good inside that they were taking it so fine. Then, too, you couldn't quite get over seeing so much civilization as we had out in the jungles: modern facilities, like flush toilets, and running water piped into the unit already chlorinated. And then remember how the hospital looked at night, all jeweled with lights, the product of our own power plant. From a distance it looked exactly like a small city. Yes, it was quite a sight to see.

And all the time the casualties kept flowing in, and we started breaking records. In one day we admitted over 700 patients at the rate of one every thirty seconds; in one month we treated some 4926 patients. We had mushroomed to 3,500 beds and we were caring for 3,000 patients at one time at the peak. A long list of records found the 54th generally at the top. But still we went on, for our work wasn't done.

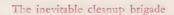
Then there were the evacuations, which were as difficult and trying as admission days. Sometimes they would be even worse. There was the same bustle and confusion, but there would be less advance notice than for admissions. "A ship is in the harbor. Prepare so many men for evacuation immediately," would be the first notice. And then would start the fun. Charts had to be completed, records straightened out and fresh casts had to be put on each patient. The patients that were being evacuated, of course, would be filled with happiness beyond any description. The huge grins and pure light of joy in their eyes was worth money to see. But we had to get them ready in time and it sometimes seemed like a miracle that we ever did.



Surgeons, nurses, technicians were on a long, hard schedule



"Anything wrong?" A wardman's routine duties follow the patient





419 miles of bandage was used

As time went on conditions in the way of recreation and amusements began improving. We had three dances with WACs but they weren't exactly a success, chiefly because there weren't enough dancing partners. However, we were a lot more successful when it came to shows. The USO began sending up some excellent stage shows, including hit stage plays such as the highly popular "Oklahoma!", and the War Dept. sent us, "This is the Army". We were making trips, too, like visits to the Native Village and ocean rides on the schooner Morewa. Sports went into high gear and we had a good deal of fun with our intra-unit athletic activities when we could find the time, or enjoyed watching our softball and volleyball (Base G champs) teams in action. Then too, the Red Cross put on parties for patients, like the Christmas Day and St. Patrick's Day affairs. But if you happen to be in the crowd at any of these events and were observing, you might have noted by merely looking around that the complexion of the 54th was gradually changing. More and more familiar figures were leaving for one reason or another and new faces were taking their places. You really began to feel like an "old timer".

As March led into April and April into May we noticed something different about the hospital, but we weren't sure at first just what it was. Then finally we understood: the Philippine campaigns were gradually coming to a close and we were receiving less and less patients each week. Slowly, ever slowly, the hospital began to shrink in size. The pressure began to ease up, the heart of the hospital began to beat more slowly.

The torrent of patients became a stream, then only a trickle. There were more days off, more things to do in leisure time and less and less tension and hustle. Doctors and nurses and men who had been with us on Temporary Duty began rejoining their own organizations and we, in turn, began sending more of our own personnel on T. D. And then finally came that day in mid-July when, with a



General Denit awards Purple Heart to Leyte casualty

great sigh of relief, the 54th General Hospital figuratively closed its doors on a job well done. Then it was time for the team, the officers and men and nurses, to add up the score. And what a score it was, too, something for all to feel proud of. There stood the facts, as bright as neon lights, for the world to see: IN A PERIOD OF NINE MONTHS THE 54TH GENERAL HOSPITAL TREATED 18,000 PATIENTS. WITH AN OVERALL DEATH RATE OF .0015.

Couple that with a long list of minor achievements and you know why you are wearing that patch on your right sleeve the Unit Citation.

Those We Knew

Thumbnail Sketches of Some 54th Personalities

PFC BERNARD M. AGREST, one of the saxophone tooters in the 54th orchestra, claims he will always remember when "we received our first battle casualties from the Philippines. It was a new experience and changed everyone's outlook on the situation".

PFC FRED AGUERO, JR., better known as "Poncho", doesn't like to think of the day at Hollandia when a jungle clearing detail came in for lunch and all they got was a sandwich because there was no water to cook with. His joviality, laughter and rasping voice will always be remembered. His favorite target was the star shortstop on the officer's softball team.

CAPTAIN ROBERT G. ALLEY, who for a long time was Mess Officer of the 54th, had a slogan that described things perfectly: What foods these morsels be!"

TEC 3 RUSSELL A. AMYOTTE, man-aboutpharmacy and star hurler for the prescription men, will long remember his shrewd dealing with some dumb natives. Russ and some of the boys, armed to the teeth with trinkets, lifesavers, and Raleighs ran into a few "dumb" natives down in Guinea and came out a poor second in thir bargaining, especially Russ. Three times he bargained and three times he had the luck to beat out Buster Armstrong for the following prizes: (1) a bracelet (which Armstrong was "positive" was made of jade) fashioned from a toothbrush by an enterprising native who left several bristles in, (2) a pair of native ear rings which turned out to be a set of cheap cuff links with the familiar 5 and-sign on them, (3) another bracelet made from a mason jar cover, the kind that their mothers used to can good old tomatoes and · raspberries.

1ST LT BETTY ANDERSON is the lovely gal we'll remember because she was always smiling. Betty worked in O. R. and when things went wrong her smile soon made it right. Many people wondered if she and "Baby" Humphreville weren't twins, because one was never seen without the other.

TEC 3 WILLIE ARBEITER, better known as "Doc", would like to be the mid-west's most outstanding auctioneer if he doesn't stay in the Army, and can always be counted on at a party to demonstrate his skill. "Doc" will be remembered by many for his enthusiasm at the softball games and his ability to wiggle his ears.

M/SGT BUSTER ARMSTRONG, well liked. well known Personnel NCO and Sergeant Major of the 54th, says the best bath he ever had took place in Milne Bay when he and his tentmates took off to the hills in search of a stream. They were so elated at finding one that they gleefully jumped in, clothes and all, "for the most refreshing bath in history".

CPL LOUIS W. AUSSIKER, or "Up and Down Duck" as he is known to the boys due to his promotions and demotions, likes to recall all the swell fellows he worked and played with while he was a member of the Motor Pool. "Duck" is a racing fan and would like to enter the auto racing field when he leaves the army. He said "it was awfully touching seeing your best friends and buddies leave after going through so much together".

LT COLONEL MYLES P. BAKER, Chief of Medcal Service during the hectic days at Hollandia, was never seen without a fatigue hat, a pipe in his mouth and a stethoscope in his hip pocket.

TEC 3 OSCAR R. BAKER will always be remembered for the splendid job he did as engineer-in-chief of our famous "Pill Box" theatre, which he and his gang constructed entirely with scrap materials. Oscar also played a big part in supervising the construction of the hospital. When he isn't constructing, he likes to play baseball and was quite a slugger for-the Gearjammer's.

SGT HERMAN D. BARSHAY will remember the whole history of the 54th from Colonel Caldwell's initial adress at Camp Ellis until the final farewell in Tokyo, but the day that 800 or more battle casualties tried to enter the hospital is the highlight. They made it! "Hy" worked in Detach-

ment of Patients and also gave out legal advice generously.

T/SGT FRANK C. BEDNAR will long be remembered by Colonel Caldwell as "Ferocious Frank". It seems as though the officers played the enlisted men a game of touch football at Fort Riley and "Ferocious Frank" blocked the Colonel out of a play. To this day he says, "That was the hardest I've ever been hit".

1ST LT JEANNETTE BEDWELL was one of the best informed persons on miscellaneous information. We discovered this fact when the Red Cross put on their own Information Please Program. They did't stump Jeannie.

MAJOR HAROLD G. BEESON decided to go home before lightning could strike twice in the same place for the first literally burned the seat of his pants during the big storm at Milne Bay.

S/SGT CHARLES A. BELEKEVICH, better known as "Sheboygan", handled patients' clothing while we were in operation at Hollandia. "Chuck", who was one of the leading sluggers for the Supply softball team, was at times so "tight" with GI equipment that many thought he bought each piece personally.

CAPTAIN LOUIS J. BELNIAK was justly famous for such notable additions to the English language as: spritzel, Logan Squares, and geezmo.

LT COLONEL GEOFFREY BENNETT at Milne Bay was the Most High Potentiate of the Silversmith and Tinkers Guild and later was the unit's outstanding collector of Japaness curiosa.

LT COLONEL MELVYN BERLIND, Adolph Menjou-looking Chief of the Laboratory Service, gave is post-war employer as "La femme enceinte", for he specializes in obsterics and gynecology.

TEC 4 WILLIAM F. BEYER thinks one of the funniest sights he ever saw was that of Pfc Kenneth Maxwell calmly reading "Rage in Heaven" the day of the flood in Milne Bay while water raged through his tent and swirled around his legs.

SGT LEONARD E. BANISTER, hard-working, able carpenter in Utilities, enjoyed putting up the Colonel's house at Hollandia, as it enabled him to construct a building that wasn't on a regular pre-fab blueprint. And the "Old Man" will testify anytime as to its quality.

S/SGT EARL W. BICKEL is a fair-sized man but not quite big enough to stand up to a weapons carrier. Earl will never forget the time he engaged the bumper of a weapons carrier at White Beach #3 and came out second best.

TEC 5 STANLEY J. BIEGANOWSKI, one of our top carpenters, remembers the hard work connected with building our Hollandia hospital. There were what seemed like endless days of hammering, sawing, nailing, building and still more building for "Biggie".

CAPTAIN PETER BISSETT, Protestant Chaplain for the 54th for a long time, liked photography for a hobby and was very good at it. He specialized in pictures of natives in the native state.

CAPTAIN THEODORE J. BOMMER, headed the Utilities Section of the hospital and as such probably came in for more requests, threats and pleas than nearly any one else. Captain Bommer's crew really did produce showers, ice, steam, electricity and QM box latrines

TEC 4 IDILLIO J. BORGES, well-liked NP technician, will never forget the time he was lying on his cot in Milne Bay and was disturbed by a foot long lizard. We will never forget "Chico" (he of the brown skin and glistening teeth) for his zany antics and borad grin while thumping the bass for the 54th orchestra.

TEC 4 GEORGE BRCICH, the Dental Lab's cheerful, zany "back parlor" humorist, plans on entering the Illinois Dental School when he gets home. George still chuckles when herecalls watching Ben Goldfarb evade the guards by stealing down the ship's emergency ladder while we were docked at Yokohama. Just to get a glimpse of Yokohama, or could it be a geisha girl?

TEC 4 JOHN L. BRENT, athletic NCO of Special Services, will always be remembered as the star fireball pitcher of the "Generals". He is also remembered for his temper which is just about as

hot as his fast ball.

TEC 4 VOYNE L. BRESHEARS was managing a store when "the call" came, but ended up an X-Ray technician in the 54th. While working in X-Ray in Hollandia the notorious water fights between his department and Dental Clinic began and Voyne was an active and eager participant.

PFC ERNEST H. BRINK will never forget that night during The Flood when he awoke to find the center pole of his tent threatening to topple in the storm and had to take turns with his tentmates holding it up.

PFC HERMAN G. BROWN was as surprised as everyone else when the Utilities softball team not only won the American League title but went on to defeat the Quakers, National League champs. Herman, who worked in utilities, says, "We looked like hell but always seemed to win our games".

M/SGT HOWARD W. BROWN, JR., better known as "Brownie", was Sergeant Major of Headquarters during the "Siege of Hollandia". "Brownie's" chief excuse for losing sleep nights was cutting General Orders for Purple Heart awards. A typical Saturday morning scene was "Brownie" loaded down with Purple Hearts following in the wake of Colo nel Caldwell as he made the awards. But no more typical is that scene than Saturday afternoon seeing "Brownie" rescinding G.O's for patients who had already been evacuated and exclaiming, "How could this happen to me!"

TEC 4 HERBERT H. BURGHART, Medical Service clerk, has been unsuccessful at his hobby in the Army: the pursuit of happiness. But there was happiness in Herb's Army life one fine day at Milne Bay when, after weeks of anxious waiting, word finally came that "it's a boy".

SGT ALEXANDER M. BURLET was a great wit with a fine sense of humor. There was one night he stood up in the Do-Ai theatre and yelled, "Boy, am I P.O.'d," when Frank Bednar walked in. For Frank had just turned 35 and was slated to go home the next day while Al was 38 and still waiting.

PFC HERMAN BURNETT, better known as "Lefty", will long remember the time he was

playing softball for the Supply team at Hollandia and had the uncomfortable experience of being literally bowled over by "Red" Yeglic. Result was a broken leg for Herman.

CPL JOE M. BUSHELL, longtime cierk in General Supply, still remembers those many poker sessions in Hollandia after we had moved down to the wards. Though they were fun, Joe recalls only too well the numerous evenings he came out on the short end.

COLONEL JOHN M. CALDWELL, JR. is the "Old Man" of the outfit in title but not in fact. His agility and spirit on the field of sport exemplied that of the entire unit and made him take a back seat for no one—except on one occasion when he tangled with a certain 6 footer whom he out-ranked, but did not out-weigh. Result: "chicken-in-the-rough" for ten days!

TEC 5 ATTILIO CALIGIURI has an interesting post-war career, completing his studies in the Humanities and teach Romance Philology. "Art", a Medical Technician who has studied in several leading universities in both Europe and the states, is noted for popping in and out of hospitals with "ticker" trouble faster than Tommy Manville changes wives.

MAJOR CLARE P. CAMPBELL, sometimes called "Soup", made innumerable challenges for athletic contests of skill but always managed to be occupied elsewhere at the showdown.

TEC 4 JIM A. CANNON, one of our Mess Department veterans, was one individual who had sufficient points and was over-age as regarded by the Army, but almost missed the boat on both counts.

TEC 3 JEROME W. CAPONIGRI, of the Dental Clinic, will never forget the night "we 134th men came to the 54th and saw all those beds and mattresses being used by the EM!" It certainly looked wonderful to Jerry, but unfortunately a short time later they were taken away.

TEC 3 ERNEST J. CARBONE, clerk in Registrar, thought his time was about up when a mental patient who was being admitted to the hospital leaned over the counter and growled at him, "Get that funny look off your face or I'll wrap that

1ST LT VIOLET B. CARISON was in and out of the 54th so many times before we embarked, that she didn't unpack her hand luggage until we were out to sea for 24 hours. She was in and out of the unit once at Fort Riley. The day we were to board the train, one of the nurses had an emergency appendix. At 1500 "Vi" was told she was leaving with us at 1730. We helped her pack. Months, after we came overseas, she was still amazed at what she found in her footlocker.

CAPTAIN OSCAR CARP was disappointed during the big flood at Milne Bay to find that all the shoes floating by were of the wrong size.

TEC 5 WAH S. CHAN, the Colonel's orderly, has one desire before going home and that is to get back to China and see his wife and children, one of whom is an officer in the Chinese Air Corps.

CAPTAIN CARL F. CHAPMAN, Medical Supply Officer, said his hobbies included "swimming, drinking, golf, drinking, skiing and drinking". There was no opportunity for swimming, golf or skiing and such allotted periods were devoted to worrying.

TEC 4 CHAN K. CHENG is another of our Mess Department men and is well known for his superb dish, "flied lice" (fried rice).

S/SGT LOUIS CHIAVARINI, Special Service NCO was called "Softaball" by the boys up there, because, when making up schedules he invariably added the extra "a". As projectionist for the unit, Chev took a verbal "beating" everytime anything went wrong, whether it was his fault or not.

S/SGT KENNETH L. CHURCHILL has been sweating over the records in Personnel ever since coming into the unit two years ago. Maybe that explains what's been happening to his hair. "Money man" Ken plans on returning to the First National Bank in his home town.

PFC ORVAL D. COBERLY recalls the night he was on guard duty in Hollandia when a 12foot python came crawling out of the officer's recreation hall. He shot it six times with his TEC 5 BRUCE B. COE is probably best noted for his Hollandia PX job, where it was the same story: "Sorry, we're closed for inventory", and "Whatever you want, we ain't got!". Bruce had a passion for "violent" card games and whenever he was in one, it was!

MAJOR KEENETH P. COLDWATER couldn't possibly have had any other nickname than "Chilly". Major Coldwater was famous to us as an unequaled and lengthy storyteller, a walking Encyclopedia Britannica, and a very good cook. What he couldn't do with a hot plate, toaster, and a few cans from home, just couldn't be done.

CAPTAIN ERNEST W. COLE, one of the unit's Protestant Chaplains, considered his most embarrassing incident the day at Hollandia when the "old man" were playing softball against the nurses and hit a home run, yet was called out because he neglected to tag third on his trip around the bases. His "lecture" to enlisted personnel before the unit left for the Philippines will be long remembered as a model.

TEC 5 JOHN M. COLE, technician in NP Section, will never forget the sight of Sgt Olga "blowing his top" while trying to get the fellows to work on the dam and stop the flood at Milne Bay.

CPL WALTER "CADENCE COUNT" CON-NELLY was one of the unit and will long be remembered as "The Line Corporal" of the outfit. In drilling, Walter knew but one command, "Count Cadence, Count!"

LT COLONEL HERBERT CONWAY, Chief of Surgical Service, always wanted something done: air conditioners installed anywhere so long as they were installed, sidewalks stateside fashion, afternoon coffee hour, refreshments for operating room personnel; but his own work day lasted sixteen hours or more.

TEC 4 FRANK C. COOK, oddly enough is a cook. He likes to remember how the wards were decorated for the patients at Christmas time in Hollandia. "After what they went through, I know it made them feel good."

THE DRY RUN TO MANILA

Everyone was excited. Tokyo! We were going to Tokyo. We were going to get out of this blankety-blank Batangas mud hole, this junior Milne Bay. Our orders had come in.

So began the loading, naturally at night, naturally in the rain. It seemed to us every time there was a movement loading had to be at night and it always rained. But still this was a little different. After all, look where we were going.

All night long members of the advance party of 125 men and six officers kept boarding the loaded trucks, a few on each one, and roared away into the night, Manila bound. Things, for a change, were going smoothly. It wouldn't be long before we were out.

In Manila's railway yards the advance party boys were going right to it. They were transferring the equipment from the big semi's onto freight cars as fast as the stuff was coming in. While out on that broad ribbon of highway leading from Manila up to northern Luzon, Route 1, a small party of officers and men were racing up toward Lingayen Gulf to check on our new camp site at the P. O. E.

And then it happened. We should have known, with things clicking along so smoothly, that it would happen. It was quite a shock, therefore, when word was sent us the next day that it was all a mistake. Those orders hadn't been meant for us, but for the 54th Evacuation Hospital instead. Our movement had turned into a "dry run".

All the advance party had to be recalled, which was quite a trick. Trucks were scattered all the way to Manila and there was that special party even beyond, on the way to Lingayen. Trucks carrying our stuff were flagged down on the highway, and the guys began trickling back in. Again we unloaded equipment in the rain, again at night. And four days later the Lingayen group finally showed up. We were all disgusted and discouraged. It was another operation Snafu!

EMBARRASSING MOMENT

Even commanding officers are susceptible to embarrassing positions now and then. This is a true incident that happened to our own C. O. in Hollandia:

The inspection of the hospital had just been completed, Col Caldwell stood at the side of the road chatting with the two inspecting Generals, Maj Gen Sturdevant and Brig Gen Yeager. All three were in good humor, for everything had gone off smoothly and the hospital was in good shape.

The conversation finally concluded, our Commanding Officer, true to the traditions of the service and strictly "on the ball", stepped back to render a snappy salute. But as he did so the

two Generals were treated to the highly unusual experience of a full "chicken" suddenly disappearing from view. The Colonel, in stepping back, had fallen smack dab into a deep drainage ditch.



THE ONE AND ONLY "BEAVER"

Charles Novack, much better known as the "Beaver", was puttering around in the rear of Pharmacy one sunshiny afternoon while on T. D. at Base R Headquarters, when in walked a Major General hell-bent on a rugged inspection.

After looking over the front of Pharmacy and 'chewing down' the non-com in charge, he asked if there were any other GIs around.

"Yessir," replied the NCO, "Tec 5 Novack., I'll call him." "Beaver" nonchalantly sauntered in, stood at a "Sad Sack" version of attention.

"I see you have two stoves here," the two-star said, eyeing the two small Colemans. "What do you need TWO of them for?"

"Well, you see, sir," came back the "BEAVER", "we need one to make coffee."

"Arumph," spluttered the two-star. "Well, get rid of one. And, incidentally," he said, casting a baleful eye on the tattered, splattered, bedraggled piece of goods Novack wore, "where are your stripes?"

"Beaver" looked down at the sun tans he'd been wearing since Milne Bay. Calmly he looked the two-star square in the eye. "Well, you see, sir," lied the one and only 'Beaver', "I was just issued this uniform and haven't had time to sew them on yet."



HOLANDIA INCIDENT

"Yipe," yiped Ray Voges as a hard-thrown ball struck him on the left thumb. Boy, it hurts like it was broken, he thought. Maybe I ought to have it x-rayed just to make sure.

The x-ray boys obligingly took radiographs of the troublesome thumb in several different positions and promised him the results later. Ray's first digit, in the meantime, kept swelling and feeling worse and by the time he returned he was somewhat worried and hoped for reassurance from Franchy, Girodat and crew. However, his hopes were dashed when he was solemnly informed that the offending thumb was severely fractured and would have to be immobilized in a cast.

Thoroughly alaimed now, Ray rushed next door to Surgery to see what had to be done. His spirit was completely crushed when Warren Thurber proceeded to apply a long cast from the tip of his thumb all the way up to the elbow. "Have to keep it absolutely immobilized," Warren explained. And it wasn't one of your plain, ordinary, everyday casts, either, but a nice, elaborate, extra-large, overstuffed cast that looked

for all the world like a nice, fat sausage.

Unhappily, Ray trudged back to the Dental Clinic to show the boys the results of playing ball, only to be met with hoots and howls of derision. Puzzled, the poor little innocent was chuckled, chortled, guffawed and smirked at for the next several hours before he finally realized that giant conspiracy was under way to rib him and there was nothing the matter with his thumb but a bruise.

STATHOPOULIS AND THE NATIVE

Then there was the time in Milne Bay that Stathopoulis tried speaking to one of the natives. He chattered away in that curious mixture of Greek and broken English of his that sounds for all the world like a spluttering firecracker, kept gurgling and gesticulating, but appeared to be getting nowhere fast. The native eyed him impassively. The Greek was slowly becoming exasperated. "Leesten, keeds, what sa metter witchoo, anyway, huh," he wailed, and on and on. But still he got no reply.

With a sigh, Stathopoulis, the magnificent little Greek, the suffering linguist, the friend of all mankind, gave up the ghost and slowly, defeated, turned away. And at this precise moment the native turned to one of the GIs watching the rather humorous proceedings and asked: "What's the matter with this Joe; doesn't he speak English?"

THE B. E. O. WHO CRIED "WOLF"

You all know the tale of the boy who cried "wolf" once too often, but here is the true story of just such an occurrence, told to us by Capt. R. M. Tilley:

The patients were being taken to the docks at 0800, one bright sunny morning at Hollandia, for an evacuation bumater. Capt. Vernille was to take their records down in a jeep, but as there was an unseen delay in the medical reports he left them behind to follow as they were ready.

The ship was scheduled to depart at 0900, but as ships from Hollandia had never sailed at the announced time nobody hurried with the medical reports. The Base Evacuation Officer, however, suddenly put in a frenzied call that the ship was leaving in exactly 15 minutes, the same line everyone had been hearing for months. The call went unheeded except to assure the B. E. O. that the records would sail with the patients. But ten minutes later the phone squawked out the information that the gangplank was being lifted, and seconds later Capt. Vernille gasped into the phone: "This time, Doc, he isn't kidding."

Jolted into action, the records were gathered, loaded into a waiting jeep and, with Sgt. Al Burlet clutching the box, Lt. Tilley embarked on

the hurculean task of covering 15 miles of treacherous road, made, slippery by a recent rain, in time to catch the ship. After a 30-minute dash they met Capt. Vernille at the now empty dock and raced another three miles to a waiting speed launch in which to complete their mission.

The ship was churning ahead full speed and appeared as a soap box on the horizon. In due time, however, and with the ship continuing underway, almost swamping the launch, they pulled alongside and lashed the records to a line thrown down to them...and the mission was accomplished.

THE HAIR TONIC MYSTERY

Another of the many anecdotes about that colorful character, Charles "Beaver" Novack, and one of the best, concerns the time he made up some hair tonic for a couple of the boys at Hollandia.

It seems that "Beaver" had a special formula for hair tonic and a couple of his friends asked him for a few bottles. "Beaver", being an obliging fellow, whipped up a batch of the stuff for them, but a day later the friends came back highly dissatisfied. The hair tonic had hardened, they complained, and produced the bottles filled with what looked and weighed something like concrete.

"I can't understand it," said the puzzled "Beaver". "That's the first time that has happened."

He made up another batch and set it on the window sill to cool. When he next looked at it, however, he saw that he would be unable even to pour it in bottles, for the stuff had hardened like rock in the bowl. Completely bewildered, "Beaver" had Max Gelfand, NCO of Pharmacy, watch him prepare the tonic to see if he was doing anything wrong. He wasn't. But, still, when the hair tonic cooled off—that's right—it hardened.

Day after day "Beaver" made up batches of the stuff and day after day it got so hard he could have used it to drive nails with. Harassed, bewildered, disgusted, "Beaver" sank into the depths of despair, and took a good razzing to boot, before his Pharmacy buddies finally took pity on him and confessed. Seems they were slipping plaster of paris into "Beavers" concotions when his back was turned.

MY BAG IS LIGHT

It was moving day in Hollandia. Guys were strapping their duffle bags shut, hoisting them up on their shoulders and struggling along to the Detachment Office. Up and down the ward Joes were grumbling about how much stuff they had, how little space they had to put it in, how heavy their bags would be.

"Boy, my bag is light as a feather; I'm travelling light," chortled Tec 4 Charles Macklin for perhaps the fiftieth time. All morning he had been crowing over the others and they were beginning to shoot him dirty looks. Now he swung his duffle bag over his shoulder and started trudging up to the D. O.

Strange, Mac thought as he hurried along, this thing feels heavier than I had thought. His pace slackened a little. But that shouldn't be, he reasoned, I know I have very little packed in here that has any weight to it. He slowed up some more. I guess I just don't feel up to par today, Mac decided, as he switched the bag to his other shoulder, slowed down practically to a snail's pace. Finally, with dragging footsteps and aching shoulder, he reached the D. O., let down his load with a sigh.

Later, while trying to clamber aboard ship, the duffle bas nearly pulled him over the protective railing along the side of the ladder. "My gawd," Mac breathed, "must have packed a jeep in here." Eventually, however he managed to drag his burden down to the right compartment and collapsed into his bunk.

Two days later Mac had recourse to open that double-dealing duffle bag, that blasted thing that seemed as light as a feather in the beginning but had turned out to be nothing but a merciless dead weight. He felt his way to the center of the bag; his had encountered a rough surface that felt like a rock. A rock? What did he have packed away that felt like a rock? Mac opened the bag wider, looked inside—why the blasted, blankety, blank, blanks! For it was a rock that greeted Mac's eye, a huge, ugly 40-pound rock donated by his pals who felt his bag shouldn't be so light while everyone else suffered.

TWO COKES

Weld Maybee was standing in the P. X. at Batangas one day, looking at the mud and goo and feeling completely bored with it all, when in walked a Joe fresh from the states. But wait, let him tell it:

"Well, there I was, when in walks this greenhorn, just in from 'the old country'. He strides boldly over to the counter and casually flips a fifty-cent piece on it. 'Two cokes,' he says in a very offhand manner.

"Bruce Coe, seldom at a loss for words, was rattled for a second. His jaw sags down and his eyes bulge out, but he quickly recovers and a devilish light comes into his eyes. Plain or cherry?, he asks, just like it was Stateside."

"'Just plain,' says the greenhorn, 'none of this fancy stuff for me!' "And there I stand, popeyed. I don't feel bored any more!"

A FAIRY TALE: THE PLANE RIDE

ONCE UPON A TIME in a strange, far-off land called New Guinea an Army was based there in a place called Hollandia. Now it seems that there was a big, big hospital in this place, the 54th General Hospital, and one day they sent a fellow by the name of Jim Cope and a nurse whose name I don't remember with three patients down to the air strip to evacuate the three to the States.

Well, when they got to the air strip this Jim Cope started looking for the plane and, after considerable search, he found it. Then he went back to the ambulance to get the patients—and then the fun began:

The patients weren't there.

"Oh, a nice GI showed me the plane they were to be put aboard, so I had them put on," the nurse explained sweetly in answer to Jim's question.

Naturally, it was the wrong plane. The transport Jim had found was the right one.

The wrong plane had already taken off with the patients.

Nobody know where the plane was going or anything about it.

So for two days Jim Cope and the nurse and Capt. Vernille, C. O. of Detachment of Patients, and a few others did more than a little "sweating" until finally the Army Transport Command phoned. They had located the missing trio: it seems that not only had the patients been put on the wrong plane, but they were on an Air Force General's private plane at that! As a matter of fact, A. T. C. admitted, they hadn't exactly been in the plane, they were towed in a glider behind it! And the payoff was they wern't anywhere in the direction of 'the old country'. They were in, of all places, Biak.

THE END

THERE WAS TRAGEDY, TOO!

The day was crystal clear and bright. Although the Hollandia sun beat down upon the cluster of prefabricated buildings and tents, inside it was comparatively cool and quiet...........

All of the beds along both sides of the ward were filled with surgical patients. Patients with wounds, patients with cuts, patients with burns. He lay there among them, his body swathed in bandages. Shortly before he had been admitted with 90 per cent of his body surface severely burned through a gasoline accident. He must have thought himself guilty, for, barely conscious he managed to turn his head to the patient next him and said: You know, I don't mind the burn, but that sweet little wife of mine will kill me if I lose that T/5."

And with that he quietly died.

----(Adapted from a suggestion by Lt Col M. Berlind, CAPT SAMUEL S. COOLEY had the pleasant task of supervising the WAC ward which probably resulted in his losing a few of his remaining hairs from worry. His lectures on T-shirts and morals were classics according to the girls.

TEC 5 JOHN N. CROWLEY has the distinction of being a Pfc for the longest time. John claims it's a distinction because he says "At lcast I wasn't broken!" "Creep" comes from New England, which is the part of the country, (he says).

TEC 4 FRANK CURRAN, who operated the electrocardiograph machine while we were in Hollandia, is one-half of the combination of Curran & Kawczinski. The two "Frank's" were always seen together, for better or for worse...... and many times it was for worse.

TEC 5 JOSEPH CURRID is one of the original cadre who has held the fort in and about the mess hall. Joe watched the outfit grow from something larger than peanuts to a mighty goliath, reaching a peak at Hollandia.

TEC 5 ROBERT E. DAVIDSON is one of those boys who is handy with the brush and paint when some of the finer arts are to be portrayed. Although he is labeled a surgical technician, he has done most of his work in Utilities by painting some of those deluxe signs one sees here and there.

CAPTAINS HARRY A. DEVORE and WIL-LIAM F. LARGE, LIEUTENANTS HAROLD R. NEWSOM and FRANKLIN R. YOUNG, the four horsemen from the Regular Army, came late to the party but brought their lamps filled with oil.

TEC 5 JAMES C. DIGGS will always remember his trip to the Philippines because it was during the voyage that "we heard the great news that the war was over. Yes, sir," says Jim, "We knew then that within a year or two they'd let us go home!"

TEC 5 WILBERT G. DOEHRING, medical technician, says he felt as if he had at last done something worthwhile in the Army after taking care of the battle casualties from Leyte and for

the first time actually realizing the suffering entailed in a war.

SGT PATRICK A. DONNANTUONO, A & D clerk, has a queer hobby, that of collecting odd-sized clothing......and finds the Army just the place for it.

S/SGT THOMAS F. DOWD, tart-tongued, sharp-witted Medical Supply NCO, says his plans are somewhat vague after leaving the service, "but in no way are they connected with the Regular Army". An old timer in the outfit, "Dude" claims his hobbies are military courtesy and collecting old training manuals (especially 8-10). Is he kidding?

PFC STANLEY E. DRAPIK still remembers with a shudder those first days in Milne Bay when there wasn't much edible food and for a week or two, "some of us had a box of raisens and a cup of green soapy-looking coffee for a meal".

SGT JOHN A. DROZD, sometimes called "hatchet face" by his friends, recalls the day he umpired a softball game in Hollandia and got a surprise black eye—a perfect rainbow—for his efforts. "That," John, of the linen room, says, "is what you get for being honest".

TEC 5 BERNARD T. DUNIGAN could never forget the morning of March 7, 1944 when we boarded the USS Lurline headed for the Southwest Pacific Area. He had heard the expression "this is an overseas unit" many times before but that day of 7 March, was a "day of reality".

CPL BRUCE W. ECKERT was probably one of the 54th's best known "characters". His antics as coach, manager, promoter, referee, umpire, heartiest rooter and cheerleader will remain a high spot in the memories of many. He also worked in A & D.

TEC 3 AKVIN P. EVEN, better known as a 'ramprat'-still recalls getting down on his knees with "them bones" many times. "Pop" was called just that because of his fatherly appearance, abundant gray hair and all, and was well known and well liked throughout the unit.

S/SGT HARLAN J. FADER, red-topped med-

ical NCO of the Professional Service, still chuckles when he recalls "Frenchy" Girodat standing in front of his tent during the flood sweeping the steps while the water flowed around and over the steps and through the tent.

TEC 5 PAUL E. FAULISE, clerk in Registrar, still chuckles when he recalls how a Colonel tried to sit in his (Paul's) reserved seat at the Pill Box. But the rank did him no good.

S SGT CLARENCE E. FIFIELD, clerk in the Registrar's office, likes sports of the less strenuous variety. He, too, will never forget the look on Carbone's face the night the patient came into Receiving and threatened to "wrap a typewriter around Ernie's head."

PFC KENNETH O. FINLEY, one of the 54th's guards, says he will never forget his pal, "Jockey" Hart, who did more for the morale of the unit than any other single person.

TEC 4 JOSEPH G. FREY, better known as "Pop", has been "turning 'em over" for a long time in this outfit. He'll always remember an expression often heard by the old-timers of the unit back in the States: Colonel Caldwell's famous "As you all know, this is an overseas unit". "Well, we made it," says Pop.

CAPT JOSEPH FRIVALDSKY, Detachment Commander and longtime Special Services & Athletic Officer, was one of the best liked officers of the unit. His size brooked no argument as a certain major at Fort Riley can bear winess. He liked body contact in volleyball and left colonels lying on the ground in his wake.

PFC NORMAN J. GANGWER, the drummer of the 54th band, was one of our Medical Technicians. Like many others, Norm remembers the tremendous amount of work we did at Hollandia. Like many others, we remember Norm for the hot licks he got in on the drums.

CAPTAIN LOUIS GATYAS, one of the first officers to join the unit back in the early days of Camp Ellis, was Mess Officer, Personnel Officer, Detachment Commander, Commanding Officer Detachment of Patients, Postal Officer, Class A Agent Finance Officer, Custodian, Officers' Club Fund, Billeting Officer, Soldier Voting Officer,

Unit Censor Officer, and finally the perfect Adjutant.

LT COLONEL KENNETH J. GEE joined the unit at Camp Ellis and overseas he masterminded an obstacle-course, miniature golf course, the "Jungle Gym", the "G" strings, and the well known and much loved Army training schedules.

T/SGT MAX GELFAND, well known NCO in charge of Pharmacy, will be remembered for his zealous interest in 54th athletics......but not as a participant. Max only goes in for it as a spectator and manager of all the teams. He gets more nervous and upset during a contest than any of the players.

1ST LTS GILBERT, LEE, BONGLE, HOOPER and SAMPE being in the 54th has meant the windup of a most unsual five year friendship. They entered nurses' training together, graduated together, entered the Army the same day, finished basic and were all assigned to the 54th. Now they have all completed their tour of overseas duty together.

T/SGT CLARENCE C. GIRODAT, better known as "Frenchy", still remembers the Milne Bay flood, and George Welte's tall stories about floods he's seen. "Frenchy" plans on extending his X-ray experiences in the army over to civilian life, perhaps under civil service.

TEC 4 MARION L. GLASS, longtime cook for the 54th, has every intention of returning to his food processing business as soon as he leaves the Army. Mike remembers best "the time we had trying to get away from Batangas. For a while it looked like some of the boys weren't going to make it, they were in such 'bad' shape".

PFC JACK D. GOFF laughs every time he recalls how the cooks had to cook supper during The Flood standing kree deep in water.

2D LT HERBERT R. GOLDSTEIN, outstanding left fielder with the high forehead, liked most sports; also arguing, any subject, either side!

PFC WALTER M. GRIFFIN, known to one and all as "Sleepy", likes to recall how, coming to Batangas on an LST, "all the card games broke

up and we stood around with a happy light shining in our eyes" when news of the Jap offer of surrender blared forth from the radio. Yes, for once, even "Sleepy" was wide awake.

TEC 4 JOSEPH F. GROBARCIK, clerk in Medical Supply, will long remember that day the Supply team defeated the teeth men in a softball game at Hollandia. It seems as though the Dental Clinic team previously defeated the Supply men, 16-2, and the boys were out for revenge. Final score of that game was 3-2 with the Dental team being knocked right out of the championship.

TEC 4 TED L. HAASE will always remember that time at Milne Bay, at three in the morning, when "a horse came into our tent and ate Knobby's cookies and candy, causing a lot of anxiety and excitement".

MAJOR PAUL S. HAGEN was the rorgotten man of the SWPA until finally his orders came in sending him home to his wife after over 40 months continuous overseas duty beginning 10 days after the wedding.

TEC 5 NORMAN E. HANKINS will never forget the sight of Bruce Eckert at the ball games and his antics trying to pep up the 54th teams. Hank is a medical technician usually assigned to the WAC wards where he enjoys his work. Hank looked better striking out than most players do hitting the ball. He missed with "gusto" and also regularity.

T/SGT JOHN M. HANSEN, likeable Central Supply non-com, plans on opening a cafe in some southern Minnesota town when he doffs khaki. "Hans" says he was impressed with the manner in which the confusion of receiving the first battle casualties at Hollandia was soon ironed out and put into a routine.

CPL GEORGE F. HANSON will always laugh at Captain Masters' statement at Milne Bay that a ditch 12 inches wide and 8 inches deep will take care of any amount of water around your tent. That night the water was 2 feet deep and 100 yards wide, at least!

PFC BELVIN E. HARRELLSON insists that "the happiest day in my life was when we left New Guinea after spending 18 months there; the

most exciting moment, sweating out the list of 50 men to be left behind"

TEC 3 JOSEPH F. HARRIS will always remember when the first six men were sent on DS from the 54th just after arriving at M'lne Bay. It was Joe's first experience with DS and TD and he though it was TS. He returned PDQ to the unit, and everything was OK.

TEC 4 NOEL A HART worked as a surgical technician while with the 54th. He likes to recall the nickname the Filipino's had for him, "The Chicken Men". He acquired this name by eating enormous portions of fried chicken often while in the Philippines. Noel is anxious to get back to his former work of copy reading for the newspaper, P.M.

TEC 4 THEODORE HART, better known as "Jockey", will always be remembered for all the laughs he provided through his everlasting good humor. Jockey could always be counted on for a good laugh, even in the most trying times. He plans to return to the turf as a trainer when released from the Army.

TEC 5 RALPH G. HATCH, clerk in the Dental Clinic took lots of kidding when he had his nose remodeled by one of our foremost facial surgeons. He was known as "handsome Hatch" in those days.

CAPTAIN NATHANT. HELM, on of our Protestant Chaplains, taught at Tokyo University before entering the the Service. Being active in athletics, he was a familiar figure at second base or at the beach at Hollandia. One day he confused these places, and we lost the game.

TEC 5 JAMES T. HELIOS, an X-ray technician who likes photography as a hobby, is generally credited, along with Nick Nickidiates, as being the first to solve the riddle of how to sneak by the guards at "Cherry Blossom Lane" when it was "off limits".

TEC 5 RAYMOND HENRY will be remembered for his sunny disposition and quick wit. We will all remember the look on Henry's face the day he walked into his mimeo room to do some work and was greeted by a nine-foot python hanging from the rafters.

PFC ARNOLD E. HICKS has a semi-Uptopian plan of life in mind: "six months of leisure, four years of college, then back to leisure".

TEC 4 JOE A. HILL, one of the 54th's butchers, will continue that occupation as a civilian, mixing pleasure with business as he goes hunting or fishing in his spare time. After the mud and rain he's been through in New Guinea, Joe says bad weather back home will be a cinch to endure.

TEC 4 MELVIN S. HILL, X-ray clerk, has so many recollections of mud in various colors and mannerisms in our long trek from Milne Bay to Tokyo that he felt he had to write about it. Boiled down, it lists: (1) the murky, gooey mud of Milne Bay. (2) the vicious, tenacious red mud of Hollandia. (3) the unusual black "greased" mud of Batangas.

1ST LT LULU E. HIX believes the 54th nurses have a special ability to always arrive at a new location dripping wet—even during the dry(?) season.

SGT RUSSELL E. HOFFMAN was our quiet, efficient radio expert and Special Services NCO at Tokyo. Russ must have told the film exchange that every day was Thanksgiving at Do-Ai because they gave him all "turkeys".

CPL FRANK HOLICK has his first memory of New Guinea from the S. S. Lurline as she came into the bay, and seeing the mountains and palm trees, wondered just what was in store for all of us. He found out! Frank is one of the sports lovers of the outfit, and enjoys a good bull session at which he throws most of the bull.

TEC 4 KURT HOLLANDER, NCO in charge of Physiotherapy, hopes to return to Chicago soon so that he can reopen his Massage Salon. Kurt likes his poker and could be seen almost any night at Hollandia sitting around the table betting a Guilder or two.

1ST LT HELEN A. HOOD's off duty hours usually consisted of one of two things——"who dunnits" or fan tan. Helen also liked her snacks so much that a tea strainer was bobbing from her raincoat when she debarked from the

SGT GEORGE M. HOOLEY has one impassioned hobby, physical exercise. "GI", one of our old-time duty NCO's, can be seen doing push-ups, sit-ups, knee-bends and all the rest, any night, any place.

PFC ARTHUR J. HORN will always remember the time Pruitt set fire to his bed and tent at Batangas. Pruitt tried to light a gasoline lantern that he knew nothing about, instead started a minor conflagration.

MAJOR PAULINUS J. HUGHES, who was Catholic Chaplain for the 54th, was the first officer to join the unit when it was alerted at Fort Riley. The "padre" is noted for his temper, chapel building, leadership, and sympathetic understanding.

1ST LT HELEN C. HULTMAN may not have had to pitch her pup tent to sleep in but she put it to good use. Who could ever forget her standing on her cot, the wing howling through the hut and she trying to tack the tent to the rafters to keep out some of the rain? It wasn't done by the numbers!

PFC HOMER L. ISREAL, the "Cigar", is a medical technician and has lovely post-war plans. Long vacation, easy business, no work, retire. Homer claims the distinction of being the first man to take a shower in bed. On awakening one morning in Milne Bay, his tent had blown down and it was raining hard so he had his morning shower without moving. The irony of it: no dry towel to dry with!

TEC 4 JOHN IULIANO, or "Butch", was known as an inveterate magazine "borrower". He was interested in anything from Time to Pic, and judging from the number of cuts on his fingers, he must have read while he worked!

TEC 3 LAWRENCE H. JABLONSKI, Headquarters clerk, would like to do nothing more than "take it easy" and will remember the many enjoyable evenings he and his friend, Louis Squillante, spent down at the ninth stop in Tokyo.

1ST LT DANIEL W. JACHIMAK came to us

from the Paratroopers. He had been a mess officer and showed it, but despite this corpulant handicap he played all sports well and with a glass arm. He had the distinction of being a first lieutenant for six months before orders were officially published.

SGT JOSEPH J. JAPCZYK will always laugh at the way a certain officer directed the erection of the first laundry in Hollandia. It was slightly higher than the water tank, so that the water would not run uphill into the tubs. When "Mother" Japczyk abandons the laundry, he will go back into the ice and coal business in Chicago.

PFC ZINOW JAWORSKI, mainstay in the Mess, plans on going back to Chrysler in his native Detroit. "George's" most pleasant memories are connected with "rolling'em" at Hollandia.

M/Sgt JOHNNIE L. JOHNSON, longtime Supply Sergeant of General Supply, says his postwar plans include good living, good clothes, good food, to be independent and to be able to sit down at a bar occasionaly. Single, he'll always remember those first days in Hollandia when "we were doing everything but taking care of our supplies."

TEC 5 JAMES D. JONES, or "Chubby", says his fondest memory of Milne Bay is the touch football game the Dead End Kids played in six inches of mud, using a cocoanut for a pigskin.

TEC 5 RICHARD L. KELLER is called "Christmas" Keller by his friends because he bet that he'd be home for Christmas 1944, then Christmas 1945. Well, there's always '46, Dick!

TEC 4 EARIE C. KERR medical technician on NP Service, likes to remember the fiery interest in the night softball games the 54th played against the Three Deuces Team on their beautiful field at Hollandia. The well-built, quiet catcher for the 54th Generals says, "Although we never did beat them, the games were usually clean and well-played".

CAPTAIN JACK A KING is remembered for the time he dug a drainage ditch at Milne Bay and tried to make the water run uphill. Only it didn't work. TEC 5 SIDNEY C. KIRKLAND had golden visions of moving into a permanent hospital at Camp Ellis. He had the same dream about Milne Bay, Hollandia and then Batangas. Finally the miracle came about and he got his wish when we came to Tokyo.

TEC 5 NILES N. KIRSCHNER recalls during his first day in Surgery he had to tie an officer's gown in the back. Niles reached down in front to get the strings but as he was a little nervous, he touched one of the officer's sterile gloves and received a good "cussin' out" in return.

TEC 3 WALTER A. KLEFLER'S nickname of "Mother" was only tacked on because of his congenial instinct to get along with everyone, in case you are wondering as to its origin. Mother claims he can still hear the cries of "Timber" and "fire in the hole" as the 54th "Engineers" cleared jungle for the hospital site.

TEC 4 EUGENE H. KLIEBENSTEIN, who accomplished prodigious amounts of paper work for Surgical Service, will continue his paper work as an investment counselor in civilian life. No picture of the 54th would be complete without a picture of Gene taking a picture of someone else.

T/SGT LEONARD KOLSKY, who was our chief clerk in Headquarters, will carry his efficient methods back into civilian life as he goes back to work for the New York City Tax Department. Len gets a terrific kick out of recalling those laughable days at Camp Ellis clerk school. He particularly remembers Eckert's neck rotating exercise while he tried to get a few winks of sleep during a lecture. Then there always was the standard reply to a question without an answer, "I wasn't here that day"!

CAPTAIN DONALD W. KURATKO will put a little life into the undertaking business when he returns to civilian life. That was his occupation before the war. His outstanding feat was falling from a "duck" on his face as his initial contact with New Guinea.

TEC 5 GEORGE R. LANCASTER, who was an NP technician, still remembers the sight of Sgt Olga standing up to his waist in water trying to build a dam to stop the flood at Milne Bay.

He was wearing a white bathing cap and blue trunks. Brother, what a sight!

SGT CORNELIUS E. LANGTON is his name but everyone know him as Neil. The NCO in charge of the mail section, he says he remembers best the indecision on the part of the 54th as to whether they would take him and the other 35 year "old men" along with the unit to Japan. It turned out, of course, that Neil went.

PFC MOIR E. LANE wants to forget the Thanksgiving turkey in Hollandia in 1944 and the after effects when the QM box was subjected to a mass attack—"but it sure was good turkey", he claims.

TEC 4 JOHN A. LATORRE of the dental clinic likes to recall the expression on Ralph Hatch's face when his buddy, Ernest Carbone, made Tec 3. John claims that it really was a sight to see.

TEC 4 JOSEPH J. LAUDUSKIE, well known in the unit for making the delicious ice cream we all loved so well in Hollandia, recalls how Charlie West tore up the water pipes and nearly anything else in sight with his bulldozer.

PFC ELMER S. LAUGHLIN recalls, with bitter irony, the night in Batangas when our huge hospital was ordered halfway across Luzon through a"slight" error.

S/SGT GEORGE P. LEAKE, pleasant mess clerk and always popular with the ladies, plans on a political career when he leaves the army. George likes to recall that terrific Zebra Club party held in Manila, but we wonder how much he actually recalled!

T/SGT ERNEST E. LEE, who claims to be strictly an office man, recells as his most embarrassing moment the time at Camp Stoneman when he, being a first three grader, was once detailed to march a platoon of men to chow. Seems that not only was he marching his charges on the wrong side of the street but everybody was out of step, he was out of step with himself, only about half of the men could hear him counting cadence, and they ended up at the wrong entrance to the mess hall!

1ST LT MARY K. LEFKO had many accomplishments but counting over 10 was not one of them. She had the distinction of never knowing for sure just how many patients were on her ward

CAPTAIN RICHARD C. LEONARD was an outstanding member of "McNamara's" Band.

MAJOR HARRIS V. LILGA was on the Medical Service throughout his stay at the 54th. He was an indefatagable collector of tropical wood and usually was working on some interesting project. While supervising the 54th Engineers, he took of his shirt and often mixed concrete along with his detail.

TEC 3 HAROLD F. LINAMEN remembers on the rough side, the mud and lizards in New Guinea. And on the lighter side, the fact that Churchill wasn't up on the "facts of life". Seems that Kenny laid bets that our pet rooster was a hen. Red claims that he still wasn't covinced when the "hen" crowed one morning!

1ST LT MARY K. LYNCH won't forget the night in Hollandia when the midnight prowler in Barracks 3 turned out to be an ant eater. It took several guards to evacuate the intruder.

1ST LT EDWARD W. LONDRIGAN, who was an officer in the Cavalry before joining us, plans to return to his position with a brewery, and he's not kidding.

TEC 4 RALPH H. MARINO, Medical Technician who plays on the 54th pigskin aggregation, likes to recall the touch football games at Batangas and the bang-up team the Generals had. He thinks we could have beaten the "Webfoots" in a walk if we hadn't shipped out that day.

MAJOR ELSON J. MASTERS put Sgt Widre on a reducing diet, and for every pound that Widre gained, Major Masters lost a pound worrying over a possible official reprimand for failure to exercise proper supervision of the health of the command.

PFC EDWARD L. MATTHEWS claims he will never forget the jungles of Milne Bay and Hollandia and building hospitals for several

other units. A driver in the Motor Pool, "Curley" was happy to see the 54th finally building its own hospital in Hollandia after months of giving everyone else a hand.

TEC 4 BILL R. MAYNARD, likeable, well-built surgery technician, still remembers the time in Milne Bay when he and Bill S'tton were awakened by Pruitt's bugle one morning to find that a tree had fallen across the tent above their bed during the night without ever waking them up.

TEC 5 LONNIE E. MAZE, of the Mess, thinks the most important thing for him was seeing women in the Philippines after being without them for so long in N. G "Everybody was happy," he states. Which sums it up nicely.

TEC 4 JESSE E. McALEXANDER, X-ray technician who was one of the original cadre of the 54th, got a kick out of watching the unit grow up to full size.

MAJOR ROBERT J. McGILLICUDDY was well known to the Detachment personnel in his capacity as Dispensary Officer. He was once the victim of the Dead End Kids. He hospitalized nine of them, one by one and one after the other. Eight simulated cramps after drinking pure water in order to keep the first one company.

PFC ESTIL R. McGINNIS had a very tragic experience at Hollandia. While working at the Medical Depot, he was looking at the graves in a cemetery and found his brother's grave among them. He had died within a half mile of Estil, but neither knew the other was near.

TEC 4 JUNES A. MEAD gets a laugh out of recalling that bay in Batangas when the wind blew down the first-three-graders' tent and they got all got soaking wet putting it back up. There are those who insist that was the first real work some of the 'third-graders' did in months.

PFC CY MEADOWS will always be remembered for his "particular" brand of haircutting, as one of the crew in the Hollandia barber shop. Cy is undecided about his post-war plans but he doesn't think it'll be barbering. We hope not!

PFC FRANK A. MELILLO says he'll always

remember how "we would sit in a downpour just to see a movie, getting soaked to the skin and shivering like mad". "Beak", as he's called, was a barber in the Army, and after a two month vacation, will go back to managing a barber and beauty shop.

TEC 5 KENNETH E. MENSING is not only a good surgical technician but also a good all around handy man. He particularly likes tinkering with typewriters and puts his hobby to good use, working for a long time as typewriter repairman. Kenny plans on returning to school to prepare for the ministry.

MAJ WALLACE A. MERRITT held baseball practice inside a pyramidal tent with the assistance of Maj Jim Webster and Lt Col George Plain. In Tokyo, Bud became a collector of Kamakura ware and a devotee of Sukiyaki and Sakana.

T/4 ARTHUR R. MICHLINK, NCO in charge of our electrical department, will never forget those lovely "private" steak and chicken fries in his tent at Hollandia. "Mitch's" eyes would simply glow as he took a chunk of golden brown chicken off the frying pan and tossed on still another piece.

PFC FRED C. MILLER, called "Mojo" by many who knew him, was a telephone operator in the Army but plans to return to school after the war for additional education before going to work. The "dry run" to Manila will probably remain a standout in his memory as he looks back at the 54th.

CAPTAIN JOHN W. MILLER, who for a long while was General Supply Officer for the 54th, expended a gross of combs on his rapidly thinning hair, played baseball and volleyball to win and hated to lose, attained fame as Fire Marshal with his little red wagon, and was last heard from as announcer for the Jungle Network.

TEC 4 ARTHUR L. MOHN laid down his first bunt when he was two years old and was so excited that he hasn't gotten over it yet! One of the reasons Mohn is so popular is that he has plenty of personality (bunts). Art will never forget that night against the Three Deuces when he laid down a perfect bunt, only to be thrown out by three feet. He still can't figure that one out. He is also the only member of the Generals

that warms up swinging three bats like a slugger, then "dumps" one down the third base line.

TEC 5 GEORGE F. MORRIS will always remember his six-day furlough in Japan when be went to a mountain resort. Terrific food, service, clean sheets and a complete life of relaxation were only part of the attractions. George certainly earned that vacation, working on the N. P. wards at Hollandia.

TEC 4 CLIFFORD A. MOWREY of Detachment of Patients is sometunes called "The mouth" for some unknown reason. He chuckles when he remembers how, when everybody was celebrating the end of the war on the troopship headed for Luzon, someone woke John Pruitt up and told h'm the news. "So what," the bugler grumbled, turning over on his other side, "Let me get some sleep".

MAJOR EMIL MROZEK was the unit pessimist and held forth on a ten year war. V-J Day found him on a limb.

PFC PAUL A. MUELLER wants a restful vacation after his discharge, and then to Electrical Engineering School. His duties are in the Surgical Service, and he comments on the rough voyage we had from Batangas to Tokyo. "Should have received diving pay" he says.

1ST LT ARDIS NELSON left an unknown soldier at Hollandia with a vision of flaming redhair and a lovely black bathing suit. It seems that several nurses were on a boat one afternoon, and sailed by another boat loaded with GI's. "Red", who happened to be standing on the bow in said hair and suit, caused one admirer to get excited and fall overboard into the ocean.

CAPTAIN SIDNEY W. NEMOYTIN, Oral Surgeon in the Dental Service, claimed he had his memories....." some good, some bad—but all are none of your business".

PFC ARTHUR NEWMAN, ever-smiling and over-talking Baggage Room attendant, will long be remembered for his impersonations and funny antics with his good friend 'Casino' Niemczura. The "Section VIII Twins" gave the boys many a laugh. Art was also a member of that 'sterling' A & D softball team.

S/SGT NICHOLAS NICKITIADES, well-known clerk of General Supply and the "Voice of the Pillbox" (this is Nick Nickson with the news), still thinks about the phrase the outfit first heard when we faced our first jungle clearing: 'Men, the picnic is over; this is it!' Verily, Nick, that was it!

PVT CASIMIR A. NIEMCZURA has one hobby, dice! "Hero" worked on the Medical Wards, and wants to return to a life of ease. He seems never to be impressed and usually gives forth with the phrase "There's nothing extraordinary about this place", no matter where we are.

PFC GEORGE E. NORRIS likes to recall one of the few times everyone had too much beer and the big problem was trying to get rid of it. Imagine that! Of course, he is referring to the day we left Batangas, headed for Tokyo, one few will forget.

1ST SGT GABRIEL T. OLGA is our tough, raucous-voiced top-kick who kept the men "on the ball" when the going got tough. The one instance he'll never forget is the day we left Batangas. Due to a slight over-indulgence "Gubby" had to "pour" some of the men on trucks. "How they ever boarded the ship off those landing barges I'll never know — but I do know I earned two months' salary that night!", he claims.

TEC 4 IRVING OLITZKY, Laboratory Technician, admits he was naïve enough to think, when en route from Camp Grant to Camp Ellis, that the 54th General Hospital he was being sent to was a modern, five-story brick building. The old-timers will know what he found instead.

S/SGT RUSSELL B. OWENS, who will resume his position with a packing company as soon as he retires as Mess Sergeant, will never forget the hungry looks on the faces of those going through the chow line. And the better the chow, the hungrier they looked.

TEC 4 FRED R. PASQUERELLI, will be remembered as part of the comedy team of Pasquerelli and Kinneary who kept things lively during softball games at Hollandia. On the lighter side, Fred was impressed by the "tre-

mendous amount of work done by this unit there".

CAPT JEROME F. PAULSON, ordinarily easy going and happy-go-lucky, demonstrated his wrestling prowess one rainy Milne Bay day, when Verme Minnick, "wetter" than usual, had to be tossed out of tent #8. The tents had elevated platforms, and the drop to the mud puddle caused quite a splash. They've been good buddles ever since.

1ST LT VIRGINIA R. PELTIER is so tiny that when the nurses' baggage was being loaded on the trucks at Hollandia, she was thrown on the truck with her luggage before anyone realized it.

M/SGT JOHN E. PETERSEN, NCO in charge of medical supply, will be remembered as one of the outstanding volleyball players on the championship 54th team. "Pete", known throughout the unit as a "helluva good guy", liked to sit in on zebra club poker sessions.

MAJOR RAY A. PHIPPS was one of the first officers to join the 54th at Camp Ellis and has remained one of our most popular officers. Ray liked to be alone, but co-originated with Godwin the drink known as "Purple Passion" endowed with the potency of several Mickey Finns.

CAPTAIN SPENCER E. PIERCE will always be haunted by "Pierce's Folly" or "The Mystery of the Unclaimed Deposits".

CAPTAIN JOSEPH V. PISCHIERI was known to one and all as "Little Joe". He was famous for his perpetual cigar or cigaret, baseball, and going on all advance echelons. Joe had an uncanny faculty for sliding, rolling, falling, tumbling or skidding when running bases.

T/SGT MATTHEW R. PISKULIC, who wants to be a draftsman after he gets out, still wonders, like most of us, about the monthly "physicals" in New Guinea. NCO of medical supply, Matt says, "If there was something we didn't need, that was it!"

LT COLONEL GEORGE PLAIN, former Assistant Chief of Surgical Service, was sometimes

puzzled about the evacuation of patients from Hollandia and said, "They must have been compiled from the operation schedule, seriously ill and unavailable lists".

TEC 4 WENDELL B. POE says he laughed hardest at the antics of Richard Hampton, who jumped out of bed, tearing down Lonnie May's mosquito net and almost knocked Lonnie out of bed when a lizard crawled up his (Hampton's) leg. "It was a sight to see," says 'Bus', who is a Mess Sgt.

SGT THEODORE POPADUIK, clerk in the A. & D. office, says he never realized how terrible war was until he personally saw some of the casualties. "Pop" was deeply impressed when the first battle patients from Leyte were brought in, for there he saw what war can do to a man.

TEC 4 REUBEN PRIVETTE can very easily be associated with the great Hercules because he was the only man we know of who could tote a hospital ward tent on his back. "Rube", one of the few Regular Army men in the 54th, accomplished this feat while training at Fort Riley.

PEC CARMINE RAIMO, called "Legs" for the obvious reason that two thirds of his better than six foot frame is below his belt, will always be able to remember those "private spaghetti dinnérs" the Italian boys would get up at Hollandia.

1ST LT HAMPTON C. REESE claimed his main hobby was having fun. "Ham" was our Motor Officer and once reported an accident to one of the 54th's vehicles. The damage reported was "one bent fan belt".

TEC 4 LEONARD RIGGIO was the "Big Clipper" in the barber shop. Len could found in the corner looking over his collection of butterflies while waiting for an officer to sit in his chair for one of those slick trimmings. Riggio also took great pride in his ability to cook and could be seen almost any Sunday night displaying his culinary wares to his chosen guests in the rear of the barbershop.

CAPT EUGENE F. RITTER'S high stepping antics on the dance floor reached a climax on St. Patricks day, when he "out-jigged" Lt Mary Ryan to take the New Guinea Irish Jig title for 1945.

CPL DAVID L. ROBERTS, who worked in the Baggage Room while we were in operation, will long remember Eckert blowing the whistle at a basketball game and yelling to our Detachment C. O.: "No, Joe.! You can't do that!"

TEC 5 MARVIN J. RODRIGUES, smiling, friendly Surgical Technician, says two incidents stand out in his mind: one, eating our last meal at Ft. Riley in the snow and bitter cold; the other, of course, was the Milne Bay flood. "Both were sad," he claims, which belongs to the department of understatement.

T/4 WILLIAM C. ROSS, still gets a chuckle out of reminiscing over the night and day after Thanksgiving, 1944 when all that could be heard was the noise of feet rushing to the latrines—with the "GI's"— and the cussing of the men who didn't quite make it. Bill, who worked as an X-Ray Technician in the hospital, says "for many it was a very harrowing experience."

TEC 4 ARTHUR C. ROTH, who plans on going back into the laundry business when he is discharged, papticularly remembers the "dry run" the advance party had from Batangas. "Artie", a Surgical Technician, recalls that for days afterwards the trucks and men were still staggering back to the outfit when it was discovered we had the wrong orders.

1ST LT BETTY M. ROTHERMEL says she's through with nursing, lists name of post-war employer as E. St. John.

T/5 WILLIAM H. RUSHBROOK was an undertaker in civilian life and has done most of the "cutting up" while in the 54th Lab. Rush is one of our southern boys with a hankerin' for hunting and fishing. Talking about bird dogs and catfish and reading "Field and Stream" are his favorite pursuits.

CWO ERNEST W. ST. JOHN, "Dixieland" trombonist and leader of the old 54th orchestra, paymaster and promoter extraordinary, once paid the equivalent of \$80 for a Japanese helmet.

1ST LT GERTRUD A. SAMPE said she will

never forget the day at Hollandia when Ward A-13 admitted some 25 mentally disturbed patients, They stormed into the ward and seeing beds, sheets, blankets, etc., yelled, "Wow! All the comforts of home!" and then commenced a pillow fight. The Disposition Board, at that moment discussing cases in the ward, made a quick exit.

PFC JAMES J. SANDELLA, remembers how we used to "bitch" when we had "C" rations, or the picture projector broke down, "Shorty" particularly remembers how everyone howled when the U. S. O. gals showed off their legs to the women-starved audiences.

TEC 4 PAUL SANDERS, energetic Medical Technician and athlete for the 54th, was an outstanding basketball and softball player. Paul, who did a crackerjack job at shortstop, will long remember the many exciting games the "Generals" played, and the spirited crowds that attended each game.

T/SGT ALFRED J. SASSANO, soft spoken NCO in charge of EENT, likes to recall the exciting ball games which were played during our stay at Hollandia. Al is an ardent baseball fan when he isn't testing eyes. An optometrist in civilian life, he hopes to return to his former work.

PFC JOHN SATALIN gets a kick out of recalling the time Sgt Olga caught him bringing home some steak from the dock detail at Milne Bay. It all came about when Murphy and Trojanowski decided to be confirmed. Naturally John thought the boys should invite the Padre over for some steak in celebration of the confirmation so he helped himself to some of the best tenderloins available, and the party was a big success, thanks to "Gubby's" understanding nature.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM D. SAVAGE was our Catholic Chaplain and Praying Coach at all basketball games. He was featured as catcher in all baseball games of Life Beginners versus Nurses.

TEC 5 PHILIP A. SCHAEFER was noted from best for two things: his work on the daily and weekly newspapers, and his liking for beer. The beer line was the only one Phil stood in without a murmur. His pet remembrance is

the transition from New Guinea to the civilization of the Philppines and Tokyo.

TEC 4 WILLIAM R. SCHICK was the hard hitting left fielder of the 54th ball team. "Bob" helped win many a game with his timely slugging and top fly chasing.

SGT DAVID SCHLAIFER, of Finance Section, likes to recall "the fine spirit of the men on all the arduous construction work in the wet of Milne Bay and the heat of Hollandia. "What Dave means, actually, is the fine spirit—in between the 'bitching'.

TEC 4 HARRY H. SCHUHARDT, or "Smiley" as most of us knew him, was a member (liberal) of our Mess Dept. Harry always gave the most of the worst and the least of the best in the chow line.

TEC 4 CHARLES SEAY or "He of the big feet", did his share by feeding the flock of hungry individuals who are to be found roaming the pastures of our great institution. Charlie is a big boy, a diligent worker, and a generous guy with the scoop.

TEC 5 BAXTER K. SECHLER marvels how all the boys came through the mud and floods and mosquitoes and snakes and so on at New Guinea in such good health and spirits. Nor is "Sech" the only one that is amazed.

TEC 5 MELVIN L. SEIDERS, medical technician, likes horseback riding and will never forget the look on Ben Christensen's face when he rode a horse thru ward E-7 at Hollandia. Christensen had to clean the ward!

CHARLOTTE SELF (ARC) says that her most vivid memory of the 54th is the softball game between the nurses and the officers: Lt Col Berlind biting his nails on first base; manager "Burley" Burleson falling off the bench when the nurses "almost" beat the officers; pitcher "Thorky" Thorkildsen striking out Captain Lubert three times; and Chaplain Savage throwing off his catcher's mask and reaching for either his glasses or the ball.

TEC 3 KENNETH A. SHAW says he'll always remember the cheerful smiles and high morale

of patients who, because of severe injuries, might well have been morose and depressed. "Kenny", who was a Wardmaster, was impressed by the way most of the wounded insisted on helping themselves, spurning all aid in getting about, no matter what.

1ST LT VIRGINIA R. SHEEHAN was small enough for a stowaway but was almost left behind at Fort Riley. Almost at the last minute she was disqualified because of vision. Emergency requisitions for glasses were rushed through and she sailed with us. P. S.—She hasn't worn them since!

TEC 3 EDWARD C. SHIPMAN remembers, somewhat unhappily, the mix-up everything was in when the unit first landed in Milne Bay. "Ship", NCO in charge of the Lab, recalls how GI's were working one shift after another and the bugle for assembly kept blowing every five minutes. "Those were the bad good old days" he said.

TEC 5 LEOPOLD SIGAL or "What can you do for me?" is another Brooklyn boy. Leo once blew the bugle, but he knew better than to go around getting us up out of bed early in the morning, so gave it up as a lost cause. When someone needed a malaria smear, there you would find Leo ready to give someone the needle!

1ST LT J. L. SILVER demonstrated his jungle knowledge along with Gee, Klingner, King, Gatyas and Chapman when they attempted to cross the peninsula at Milne Bay commando style—K rations, jungle hammocks, etc. After hacking a trail for a couple of hours, they found themselves at a closed latrine, 25 yards from where they started. Captain King then went to bed for a week.

PFC LANDROES M. SIMS, who worked as a driver in Transportation, says "The big blow at Batangas when tents were blown and rain covered everything will be my livliest thought of the 54th."

PFC CLARENCE M. SMITH was one of those innocents who had beautiful visions of putting up at an expensive hotel in fine style when the 54th arrived in New Guinea. To say that "Smitty" was unpleasantly surprised would be putting it mildly.

MAJOR CHARLES SOBEL porticularly remem-

bered the funeral service held in Milne Bay for the late Lt David Vogan, our youngest medical officer. It was the first military funeral he had seen and he thought it "simple yet impressive".

TEC 4 EDWARD R. SOINSKI won't forget one touch football game he played in with the champion 54th team against the 1st Cavalry School at Fort Riley, when things got so rough the two teams almost had a free-for-all. "Even the Colonel was ready to participate," Eddie claim.

SGT HERBERT T. SORANDES, longtime sergeant of the guard, remembers the night before the Great Flood when Charlie Wolf said, "I have a feeling something terrible is going to happen tonight". It did.

T/SGT MARVIN P. SPITLER is probably best noted for being somewhat of a philosopher and for his ability to drink beer, as many can testify who've sat with him of a warm Hollandia evening. Marv has ideal postwar plans: "Hunting and fishing in Mexico, then return home for a rest, after which more of the same in good old Minnesota".

PFC ALPHONSE A. SPONZILLI, cook's helper in the mess, says he remembers best the dice games going on in the dayroom in Hollandia and the actions of the players. "Skinny" ought to know. He could always be found in the center of the action anytime a game was going, day or night.

TEC 4 LOUIS A. SQUILLANTE worked in our Detachment Headquarters. Louis, who was generally referred to as, "Little Olga", wants to get back home in a hurry and start raising some "bambinos". Naturally he will get married first!

LT COLONEL ABRAHAM M. STEGEMAN, who was our Executive Officer for a while, was originally examined for entrance on active duty some 12 years ago by Colonel Caldwell at Fort Snelling, Minn. It's a small world.

TEC 5 SEYMORE B. STEIN, known to his friends as "17 points", says the time "Uncle Eph" played "The Great Speckled Bird" for "Moose" Reichert stands out in his mind as one of the humorous events on the 54th.

MAJOR HOWARD A. STELLNER, Asst. Chief of N. P. Service, always said his patients were "out of contact with reality".

TEC 5 IVAN K. STEVIE, our tall, carefree, "Stepinfechit" sign painter, wants to continue that sort of work in civilian life as a Motion Picture Titling Artist for RKO. He'll probably only work in their slow motion shots section, however, for he if notorious for the turtle-like pace at which he works.

TEC 5 ROBERT C. STRASS, friendly, easy-going medical technician, says, "It is hard to forget all the labor that was put into completing our Hollandia hospital before the the Leyte invasion. We won't soon forget pushing endless wheelbarrows of cement in the blazing sun."

S/SGT THOMAS SULLIVAN will be remembered most on two counts. One, the perpetual cigar jammed in his face, and two, his perpetual good humor. "Sully" was rarely never seen not smiling and a reasonable request was never turned down.

PFC FRANK D. SWAN will be remembered for his sweet vocals with the 54th orchestra. The first song Frank ever sang with CWO E. St. John and his "Little Angels" was "A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody" at Milne Bay. Remember?

TEC 4 JAMES E. TAFELSKI, known to all and sundry as "Taffy", says, "Oh for the life of a politician." Because of that, he gives as his post-war employer: "Maybe, Sing-Sing, due to the above business pursuit." Taffy will be remembered for his fine performance both on the gridiron and on the basketball court as a member of the Generals.

TEC 5 JAMES R. TALLEY loved the fresh fruit available in the Philippines. After 18 months of dehydration, he couldn't get enough bananas on which he gained 5 pounds. Incidentally, he has good luck following his hobby of collecting foreign money.

TEC 4 WILLIAM THOM, or just plain Tom, was one of the first boys to join us and has been a most valuable asset with his fine cooking and generous servings. Without him, the mess hall doesn't seem the same, for the boys could always joke with him and that bright Texas smile was

continually on his face.

TEC 3 WARREN J. THURBER liked to recall those X-ray poker sessions. Each time he had a winning hand he would say, "Here's where I buy another hog", but then he hit that big losing hand and it seems as though he lost a whole farm on it. You might say he didn't bring home the bacon that night.

M/SGT HERBERT W. THURLOW will never forget those first hectic days of operation when he and his friend Marvin Spitler were the only men in the DOP. Marv would make up the temporary S/R's and payrolls and Herb would run out on the wards and pay the bed patients a few minutes before they would leave for evacuation to the U.S.

CAPTAIN "Two Foot" ROBERT F. TILLEY belonged to the Barbershop Trio with those "out of this world characters", Lou Gatyas and Carl Chapman, in their notable renditions of "A Tube of Tooth Paste", and the like.

1ST LT DOLORES M. TIPTION, known as "Tippy", will be long remembered for the soft ball game in which she slid hard into all four bases and "scarred" instead of scored!

TEC 5 FRANK P. TRIPICIANO's fondest memory is Captain Master's fear of mosquitoes. "Trip" recalls how the Captain wore a head net, leggings, mosquito gloves and repellent. We remember Trip for his fine trumpet playing in the band.

PFC TED S. TROJANOWSKI a long time member of that famous 54th clan, "The Dead End Kids", worked as a Surgical Technician when he wasn't getting into mischief with the gang. Ted excelled in swimming and high diving, and will be remembered by many for his high-diving feats off the bow of the Liberty ship that brought us to Hollandia.

TEC 5 TONY TRUPO, Dispensary Technician, and one of our original Dead End Kids has his post-war plans all set: back to school, via the GI Bill of Rights. "Trup" will long remember his first visit to a "Geshia House", especially the OGH.

TEC 5 SHELDON R. UDAY was sure he had reached some form of civilization after many months in the jungles of New Guinea, when "I encountered in the Philippines extolling the virtues of 'Camay, the Soap of Beautiful Women'; 'I'd Walk a Mile for a Camel'; et al"

TEC 4 HERSCHEL C. VAN NORTWICK remembers best that time in Batangas when the outfit loaded all the equipment in the rain for a trip to Japan. Suddenly it was discovered the orders were a mistake, that it was the 54th Evac Hosp which was to go. "What happened after that was simple," he said, "We just had to unload everything—again in the rain."

TEC 5 JOHN J. VARENHOLT, JR., Catholic Chaplain's Assistant, claimed he knew how hard the work was at Milne Bay, out there in the rain and mud every day. "Now, don't get excited," he said, eyeing the clenched fist of George Welte, a former "medical engineer", "After all, I oughta know......I watched!"

T/SGT ANTHONY H. VENGONI, longtime mess sergeant of the 54th, will always be remembered as that rotund, grinning figure who tried to get something better than spam for the boys to eat.

PFC MARIO H. VERCELLI, of the Mess Department, has intentions of returning to the brewery business when he gets home "if people will still drink." "Verc" helped up pass many pleasant evenings with his accordion playing. There was hardly a request he could't play and it was fun, like when we came overseas on the Lurline, to sit back and listen to him.

CAPTAIN ROCCO F. VERNILE liked to recall the time "a Base Surgeon told me I would do him a personal favor if I jumped off the end of the dock and drowned myself". He was Commanding Officer, Detachment of Patients, and said there is nothing like sleeping for a hobby.

PFC DAVID F. VIRGASON, medical technician who claims money is his hobby, will never forget the pipe-laying detail he was on at Milne Bay. The boys had to lug heavy sections of pipe uphill through the thickest of jungle, wading swift streams and fighting the bugs to reach the dam where the pipe had to be started. And all the time it rained.

TEC 4 CHARLES L. WAPHAM, Surgical Technician in the Operating Room, still chuckles over the time Bill Maynard kicked his jungle bunk and it fell on top of him. The mosquito ret fell over Bill too and the more he struggled the more tangled he became. "It was like a fish in a net," says "Chuck".

SGT LEON E. WATSON, being a clerk in General Supply, naturally would look at The Flood from the angle of clothing issue when he says he'll never forget it "because everybody and their brothers lost their pants". Leon lost more of what's left of his hair the next day when the unit came clamoring to supply en masse for more clothes.

MAJOR JAMES R. WEBSTER played baseball for the University of Chicago team during a tour of Japan in 1925 and is still an able man behind the plate. Following a seige of Hepatitis at Hollandia he was known to have consumed sixteen eggs in one day by actual count. He also practices dermatology.

PFC CHARLES J. WEIXELDORFER, or "Weazel", will be remembered for always breaking his glasses at the opportune time, thus getting out of a lot of work.

TEC 3 GEORGE E. WELTE likes to tell about the time when a mouse spit some wood in his face, believe it or not! It all happened in Hollandia one night after George had gone to bed. He heard a noise on top of his jungle bunk so he grabbed a shoe and hopped out of bed and peered on top, but no rat. So he climbed back into bed but soon began to hear the thing gnawing again. He jumped out of bed and looked on top—still the devil hid. As soon as he got back under the covers, John Rodent started again, and this time, to show his contempt, the rat spit pieces of wood in George's face!

MAJOR SADIE L. WHELESS was the 54th's first bride. Her classic greeting to Colonel Caldwell was, "Good morning, Sir, glad to join your unit. May I have permission to get married?"

PFC LLOYD V. WHITAKER, Jr., plumber in Utilities, got quite a kick out of recalling the names attached to the different homemade brews

in N.G. Jungle juice, purple passion, torpedo juice and atomic cocktail were but a few.

TEC 4 QUAY L. WHITTAKER, soft spoken supply sergeant of the dental clinic, thought the most interesting sight he ever saw was the clearing of the jungle at night at Milne Bay while dodging the rats. Then the next day, "fishing our duffle bags out of the mud so we could throw them in more mud inside the newly erected tents".

TEC 5 MALCOLM E. WHITTEN, pudgy, friendly Special Service movie operator, recalls sitting in the office one night watching a large rat swiping bits of his candy lying on the ledge on the opposite side of the room. Feeling justifiably angry, Whit let fly with a paper weight and the result was one dead rat. The next day, however, he made up for it in a ball game. With the score tied and the winning run on base, Whit threw the ball 14 feet over third base and the Spex lost.

PFC WILLIAM J. WICHROWSKI, who says his hobby is food, food and more food, likes to ramember that time during The Great Flood when Ken Wescom tried to grab a passing log for use in a barrier some of the boys were building against the water. "Wild Bill", who is single and a medical technician, chortled with glee as Wescom fought and struggled to hold the log in five feet of water but eventually lost the battle.

T/SGT ARTHUR G. WILHELM, NCO in charge of Detachment of Patients, will always remember that month of luxury at Hollandia after the entire outfit left for Batangas except for a 50-man rear echelon. Though the idea was to make some field tests, most of the time was spent in eating, volleyball, shows, card games, swimming and just plain "sacking it". "It turned out to be an unexpected, restful, one-month vacation for us," "Willie" claims.

1ST LT WINIFRED E. WILLIAMS had the distinction of being the only gal to go through the infiltration course while in the 54th. To accomplish this feat, 1st Sgt Olga loaned her his GI longies. Sgt Olga could testify that it was plenty rough for her as he had to salvage his "longies" afterwards.

S/SGT DELMER WILSON has a swell collection of Army shoulder patches as his cohorts in Unit Supply will attest. Del will never forget

the meal eaten under railroad cars the evening we left Fort Riley for Camp Stoneman. We were fed on paper plates and before the meal was eaten, there was a layer of snow on each plate.

TEC 4 HOWARD L. WILSON plans on a tour through Europe as a post-war vacation. Howard will long be remembered for his patience and kindness while working in the women's Ward. His interior decorating experience was indeed appreciated by the officers, as he planned their club in Hollandia.

TEC 4 JOHN A. WILSON, in charge of the Baggage Room at Hollandia, likes to fish, especially on Lake Huron. John holds the distinction of being the only man in the 54th to ever represent the U.S. in the Olympics. The 1936 Olympic in Berlin, Germany to be exact. Track and field events was his specialty.

TEC 4 FRANK WITKOWSKI claims his hobbies to be sports, liquor and women. It is guessed he has had a pretty dull time overseas. Though he wants a discharge, if times get too bad "Wit" says he may get desperate enough to join the

Army again.

TEC 5 CHARLES WOLF recalls the time that Harold Aschilman was working on the roof of one of the hospital buildings in Hollandia when he opened a cablegram handed him, yelled, "Hey, I just became a Daddy!" and proceeded to fall through the roof. Charley, a medical technician, claims goldbricking is his top hobby.

T/SGT JAMES E. WOOD, NCO of Registrar, says he will never forget a B-24 bomber which he saw fly above the hospital at Hollandia, burning as it passed over, on the way back from a mission. It crashed a few seconds later, just a mile short of the air strip, killing the entire crew.

PFC WARD K. ZIMMERMAN was in the I & E Section as Educational Consultant, handling AFI Study Courses. Zimmie recalls with a shudder the time I & E went into the wholesale educational book business at Hollandia with about 5,000 courses. "Zuk" says it was more like Macy's basement—"but we got the boys all eddicated, anyway."

Athletics have been a major factor in the high morale of the men in the 54th. As far back as Camp Ellis, the unit was actively engaged in sports of all types. Not only was the organization represented in inter-outfit leagues, by teams composed of the best athletes, but a large intramural program was always on tap for those who wanted to participate.

At Fort Riley, after a gruelling struggle, the Generals won the Touch Football championship of that post, and a trophy emblematic of that title was awarded the unit. In

THE
54th
AT
PLAY



by Capt. Joseph Frivaldsky

basketball, the Generals were respected as one of the strongest cage teams on the post.

The inclement weather and limited space at Milne Bay curtailed our activities to the playing of volleyball. Shortly after our arrival, 24 teams were formed from the detachment, and the fight for top honors was on. Despite the rain and mud and early darkness these games were full of action, the weather not dampening ardor of the participants.

Some of the outstanding volleyball teams were the Dead End Kids, Doc Arbeiter's Atabrine

Cateyes, Frankie's Boys, Gearjammers (Motor Pool), Mess Kits (cooks), Corona Commandos (clerks), Beavers, Zebras (1st 3 graders), Guinea Clippers (barbers), and the 7 Stitches (surgery). The winner in that competition was Frankie's Boys, an aggregation that included, Curran, Kerr, Hankins, Murphy, Popadiuk, Blecharzyk, Everett, and Andrews.

An E. M. "All Star" team was chosen from the league to compete against the officers team, and needless to say the rivalry was terrific! Each week these two stellar teams would meet, and never was there more than a 3 point difference in the scores. These games drew capacity crowds at all times, and all who were present will never forget the clanging of the mess kits that greeted an officer player upon making a miscue! Though the officers had an umblemished record in games with other officer teams, (14 wins -0 losses), they failed in all attempts



ACTION SHOTS OF HOLLANDIA SOFTBALL



General Supply clothed approximately 10,000 patients returning to duty



Fully equipped gymnasium and.....

tricky 9-hole miniature golf course



to beat the E. M. Some of the officers who participated

regulary in the athletic program were, Caldwell, Campbell, Helm, Jachimiak, Kuratko, Leonard, Londrigan, McGillicuddy, Merritt, Miller, Pischieri, Ritter, Salem and Webster.

Softball play, though limited, was not entirely overlooked. The Generals played 15 traveling games, winning 10 of them. The officers' team too, had a good record, losing only one game during their stay at Milne.

Base "G"

At Hollandia, our athletic program was on a much larger scale. There were 8 volleyball courts, two of them equipped with lights that enabled our own leagues to play at night when it was cool; one softball diamond with bleachers that could accomodate some 400 fans; a gymnasium complete with boxing ring; and a minature golf course.

Again volleyball started things rolling with a 16 team league playing evenings. The ultimate winner of that first league was the Carbon Copies (headquarters) who came from behind to down the powerful Sad Sacks (Medical Supply). The winning team's roster included; Armstrong, Jablonsky, Kolsky, Bednar, Popaduik, and Burlet.

Following the first round we reorganized and Major and Minor Leagues were formed. The Lone Rockers (S Sgts only) finally edged out the Sad Sacks in the Major League playoff that was undecided until the final game. The champions'

lineup contained just six men, Leake, Sullivan, Baker, Belekevich, Kolsky and Piskulic.

In the Minors the Panchos and Belly Robbers met in the finals with the former winning. Members of that team included, F. Williams, Braswell, Godfrey, Conway, Ortiz and Rose.

All Stars Win Title

A team of picked players was organized to represent the unit against other organizations, and played upward of thirty games losing only two of them. They had an underfeated record in the Medical Center League and then entered the Base "G" tournament and emerged with the championship. The team's members were Petersen, Armstrong, Bednar, Murphy. Grobarcik, Belekevich, Thompson, Popaduik, Piskulic and Neuer.

Basketball was another major sport in our athletic program at Hollandia. Despite the fact that our cagers played all their games away from home, a decided disadvantage, they managed to win 15 out of 22 games. In the Base "G" tournament our team went to the semi-finals before being beaten. Members of the team included Tafelski, Holick, Sanders, Hankins, Brent, Thompson, and Mohn. This team was considered among the top-notch aggregations at Hollandia. Not to be overlooked here was the fine refereeing of our own "Pat Kennedy"-Bruce Eckert. The caliber of his work was reflected in that he was selected to officiate all the final Base "G" championship games.

Everybody Played Softball

With the making of a softball diamond this sport then took the spotlight.







Softball

THE GENERALS

B s k e t b a 1



Football



1500 Yards of typewriter ribbon were used during operation of hospital

Enthusiasm and participation included not only the enlisted men, but the officers, nurses, and just about everyone between the ages of 6 and 60. What with 16 teams in the E. M. leagues, two officers teams, two nurses teams and patient teams, it seemed everyone went softball mad.

The E. M. teams were organized into the American and National leagues of 8 teams each. The brand of ball played in these games produced everything imaginable on a ball diamond, from one extreme to the other. One game would see perfectly executed plays and the next game would bring three runners stranded on the same base. The latter type of incident was more liable to happen in a "Life Beginners" vs Nurses battle. Umpire baiting, freak fielding, home runs, strike outs, cheering and heckling by the "fans" and countless "strawberries" were all part of the game.

The winners in the American League were the Utes, while the National League flag was won by the Quakers. In the "54th World Series", Pop Holick pitched and batted the decidely underdog Utes to a surprising 4-2 victory over the Dead End Quakers. Players for the Utes were Holick, Reams, Allman, Henkosky, H. Chandler, Harrelson, H. Brown, Vogler, Elo, Check, West and Hoynoski.

The team had a schedule of 35 games, winning 25 of these. In the Hospital Center League the Generals wound up with a record of 8 victories and 0 defeats. Brent pitched several no-hit games and had the unfortunate distinction of losing one of those "pitching gems". The night games against the Three Deuces will long be remembered for the spirited crowds that attended, the fine brand of ball played and the intense rivalry between the two clubs.

We won't forget, either, the fine "behind-the-plate" work of "Stoneface" John Drozd and "Gabby" Joe Grabarcik. The clean and orderly fashion in which the games were conducted was largely due to the untiring efforts of these two, though their efforts were more often than not repaid with "You're a blind so and so", and "Kill that bum!"

Our "Guests" Played, Too

Even the patients were not forgotten. There was a program of graduated callisthenics for them so that by the time they were discharged from the hospital they were in top physical condition.

All recreational facilities were made available to them and one could daily see scores of pajama clad figures playing all types of ball, pitching horseshoes or working out in the "Jungle Gym".

These convalescent patients were all segregated in the "G" Wards and their

teams were called the "Gee-Stringers", after their overseer, Lt Col Gee.

In the P. I.

At Bantangas, while we were there only a short time, sports played a major role in the way of entertainment.

The softball team won 7 games and lost 1, that being to the Base Champs, 3-2. That game was a real heart-breaker, for Brent outpitched and the team outhit the "Champs" only to have two errors in the last inning snatch away a 2-1 victory.

Again the hospital had a basketball team entered in base competion. This team also had a record of 7 wins and 1 loss. The only loss being a 1 point defeat in their last game at this base.

But it was in Touch Football that the boys really showed their talents. They entered a 2 game elimination tournament on a moment's notice and with but 2 practice sessions. In their first game against a seasoned opponent, the 315th General Hospital, the boys led all through the game only to lose in the last 2 minutes of play. This defeat brought out the team's weaknesses and they bounced back to six straight wins, and were to play for the championship of Base "R" only to have the unit move on. In the quarter finals the Generals once again met the 315th and this time our boys roared thru to a 35 to 6 revenge victory.

Murphy (cap and all) led the attack with a display of passing that was equal to that seen on the best of football fields. Earl Kerr's fine blocking was another highlight that deserves mention, not to overlook the playing of Marino, Hankins, Fish, Yeglic, Soinski, Tafelski, Mohn, Schick, Hicks and Witkowski who rounded out a team that had to take a back seat for no one!

A line of credit here must go to Lt Edward M. Londrigan who coached the boys and had a team trained to the point where it performed in championship fashion.

Tokyo!

The weather there was such a radical change that only basketball was played to any extent. Again the hospital team, though having no facilities of its own to perform on met and vanquished all foes but one. Among those teams defeated were clubs from the 1st Cav Div, 5th Air Force, 4025 Sig Group, 42nd General Hospital, and the 71st Evacuation Hospital.

And thus ends a resume of athletic activities, a vital factor in the life of the 54th. It gave enjoyment and allowed for emotional outlet not only for the participants, but for the countless spectators whe rode over dusty, rocky roads, or sat through rain to follow the fortunes of their teams.



"Scat" Johnson and his 93rd Div. Combo "swing out" on the stage of the 54th's mammoth Pill-Box

ENTERTAINMENT

To give a detailed account of everything in the way of entertainment, recreation and general morale-building would be an almost impossible task, but the following highlites are worth mentioning.

Most of the entertainment at Ellis and Riley was furnished by the camp itself for all the units there. Occasionally, the 54th called upon the night spots in Peoria or Kansas City to give the men an evening's entertainment.

Overseas, however, the problem was one of unit responsibility and as far back as Milne Bay the 54th had a stage of its own. This was a skeleton-like wooden frame covered by salvage canvas. Though a make-shift affair it served the purpose. Several orchestras of Base "A" units came to put on welcomed programs. The bulk of the entertainment came by the movie method which we had thrice weekly, and our own orchestra which played for the unit frequently.

At Hollandia the picture was far different. After construction of our hospital was well underway, it was decided to allocate an area for a theater and to build



Bobby Martin entertains at Camp Ellis

a stage.

With scraps of building material that abounded the area during this construction period and with material that was either "begged or borrowed" the Pill-Box came into being. This was a mammoth structure that had a frontage of 48 ft, was 30 ft deep, and 24 ft high. Like everything else about the hospital it too was BIG. The seating capacity of the Pill-Box was 3,000.

It was the largest "air conditioned" theater in New Guinea and never had any one project paid such handsome dividends.

With it came the first of the large USO

shows, providing a veriety of entertainment. For musical comedy followers there was "Hellzapoppin", "Mexican Hayride", "Cover Girls Abroad", "Girl Crazy" and "Oklahoma". The latter was "Oklahoma's overseas premier and was seen by some 20,000 in four nights, resulting in favorable stateside publicity for the show and the 54th General Hospital. For the drama-goers we had "Petticoat Fever", a four act play. "Stars and Gripes" and "This Is The Army", all-GI shows produced by the Army, presented several performances.

For the swing fans there were countless appearance of the 93rd Division and 368rd Infantry Bands, the USO "Jam Session" show, the 2nd Filipino Bn and

the 1st Recon Bn String Orchestras, and various other small combos.

For the classical and semi-classical music lovers there were 3 concert groups, one string trio and a show featuring a variety of South American music. The 93rd Division Band and the USASOS Military Band put on concerts too. Numerous USO "Variety Shows" played the Pill-Box at frequent intervals.

For the baseball-minded fans there



The Milne Bay beginning of the 54th Band



were personal visits of the following "big-leaguers", Tuck Stainback, Johnny Lindell, and Ken Silvestri of the Yankees; Steve O'Neil manager of the Detroit Tigers; Hugh Mulcahy of the Phils; Irv Dusak of the Cards; and Beans Reardon, the National League umpire. This group brought with them the pictures of the 1944 World Series.

For the boxing enthusiasts there were several nights of boxing matches at our own Jungle Gym and appearances of Comdr Gene Tunney, retired former World's Heavyweight Champion, and Gus Lesnivich, Light Heavyweight Champion of the world.

During the period from November 44 to June 45 saw the appearance of 41 USO shows on an average of better than one a week and during this same period there were some 70 ward shows.

Nearly all the afore-mentioned shows and guests visited the wards and gave impromptu performances for the bed patients.

A hospital radio request hour the bed patients was also instituted in conjunction with Armed Forces Radio Station WVTF. Several of the request programs originated right at the patients bedside in the hospital wards.

Movies as usual played a big part in the entertainment program. They were shown at least thrice weekly outdoors and five times weekly through the wards, with matinee movies for night duty personnel.

Other recreational activities for the hospital personnel were excursions on the schooner "Morewa", excursions on Lake Sentani, visits to the native village of Atapo, the Dutch settlement of Kotanica, and swimming parties were held for all, including patients.

In Tokyo, as we move into our new civilized setup, with its 1,000 seat indoor auditorium, things become a little different. The men can seek entertainment of their own and such a stress is not placed on what can be furnished them. However, despite the outside diversions, the four movies weekly are well attended. To this writing, three stage shows have been presented. One proved very intereting a troop of Japanese entertainers, featuring real Geshia dancers. In addition, we were treated to one USO show and one all-soldier show.

This, then, sums up the entertainment job. A job that serviced not only personnel, but battle scarred veterans of the Philippines campaigns.



New Guinea scenery was beautiful and trips were popular. Relaxing for the day on Lake Sentani, (left) and out on the briny deep on the schooner "Morewa". (below)





Vehicles of the motor pool traveled a total of 450,000 miles

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by Major Kenneth B. Coldwater

The grim task of caring for the wounded soldier is heightened by incidents that make for story telling. In the years to come the hardships, overwork, monotony and inconveniences of life in the tropics will fade from our consciousness. Those of us in the professional services feel that we should share some of the outstanding tales - tragedy, drama, humor, that colored the daily life in the surgical wards and operating rooms. Many of these latter tales come to us from the wounded, but lose little in the retelling.

One of the most miraculous escapes was that of the P-47 pilot who came to us with a sprained ankle and a collapsed lung. That was the extent of his injuries after a 1500 foot fall dangling at the end of an unopened parachute. This young Air Force Lieutenant was returning from a strafing mission in the interior of Leyte, approaching the Tacloban air strip, flying over the ocean. A connecting rod in the motor broke and the forward section caught fire. A glance at the

altimeter showed 1500 feet and he immediately bailed out. The parachute cleared the plane, but failed to open. Plummeting toward the water like a sky rocket in reverse, he still managed to consider his plight. Striking the water feet first, he raised his arms above his head, grabbing the shroud lines to keep himself rigid. Our patient escaped with the comparatively minor injuries with a prompt recovery and a quick trip home as the sequel.

Every war brings incidents of survival after wounds that would ordinarily prove fatal and inexplicable escapes from serious injury by missles that have passed through vital regions. The 54th General Hospital can add its share to these stoties. One that comes to mind was the soldier who was struck in the buttock by a 25 caliber bullet, which lodged in the depths of his pelvis. Since he showed no alarming symptoms at the aid station, he was evacuated. While en route to Hollandia, he voided the bullet which had penetrated into the bladder and further treatment was unnecessary. Just another case of a soldier "passing" up a difficult operation!

Another soldier, shot in the chest, developed symptoms of heart failure. An X-Ray revealed the presence of the missle in the region of the heart. The surgeons, nurses, and technicians spent a tense morning while the patient's chest was opened and his heart exposed and explored. Finally the bullet was found embedded in the back wall of the heart. It was removed successfully and the patient's recovery and restoration to health was in no small measure due to the diligence of the ward nurses and corpsmen who performed the exacting details of complicated post-operative care.

The most gruesomely humorous incident in our experience happened to a Signal



These Philippine casualties can still smile despite casts and Balkan frames.

Corps Captain, whose assignment was taking combat movies of the Leyte Invasion. The captain, a former Hollywood camerman and husband of a rather prominent movie star, had just hit the beach with the troops and was grinding away when a Japanese knee morter shell struck a tree not far away. The resulting explosion literally demolished two men who were abreast of him. The blast knocked the captain unconscious, stripped him of his clothing, and drove his hand-camera against a tree 20 yards away. As he awakened he saw a medical aid man sprinkling the exposed intestines with sulfa powder. He gave what help he could while the displaced viscera were being covered with a large number of battle dressings.



Getting the "needle" from two
Lab. technicians

Thus protected he was carried by litter and L. C. M. to a hospital ship lying off the beach. The following hours were a torture of mental anguish during which the captain waited for an iminent but surprisingly painless death.

His calm color was restored when the dressings were removed and he discovered his own organs to be intact within an undamaged abdomen. The unfortunate soldier

struck by the shell had provided the human fragments that deluded the captain and the aid man into believing that he had sustained mortal injury. A small fragment wound of the left thigh was discovered to be the sole injury aside from the blast effects. The wound was dressed and the cameraman was returned to bed without further treatment because of the urgent need of the more seriously injured. In our hospital an X-Ray and the surgical removal of the fragment disclosed that a fountain pen clip had caused the wound. The pen clip had been blown from the pocket of his companion and driven into the captain's leg! The captain had escaped the flying shell fragments which had killed two and wounded two of his companions.

Christmas Eve 1944

A glocmy, rainy, muggy New Guinea afternoon. But still there was a holiday atmosphere. Christmas decorations brightened every ward. Ward men and ambula-



A pretty nurse evokes a smile despite a heavy body cast

tory patients had tried to prepare the most elaborate displays from the jungle products at hand and Red Cross supplies. The contest judges had awarded the prixe for the best decorations to ward B-11. The food situation looked good-Christmas packages were opened, supplies of fruit, eggs, butter and fresh meat had arrived after months of dehydration, and tomorrow a real turkey dinner. Already the cooks were stuffing enormous birds into the small field ovens in preparation for the feast.

There was impromptu caroling from the bed patients, while the harassed nurses and ward men went about the monotonous changing of dressings. It had been more than a week since the last hospital ship had filled all available beds with wounded. The seriously ill had responded to transfusions, surgery, rest, penicillin, and were on the road to recovery. All was serene on this Christmas Eve.

The officers' club was holding its first party to celebrate opening day. Everyone had visions of completing his work by supper time. Long hoarded bottles would be brought out. Every one felt pride in the feverish day and night activity of the past two months, completed this day. We had lost so few of our patients and we believed secretly that we deserved a little relaxation on this very special occasion.

All of a sudden our feeling of serenity and our anticipation of a festive evening was given a terrific jolt. We were notified that a hospital ship was docking with countless patients! By 4 o'clock, ambulances began to arrive and the feverish pace, once slackened, began all over again. No one can fail to recall the scramble that followed this announcement. All ambulatory patients must be moved to D ramp. There were loud protests from B-11. The decoration prize was a feed and those who had won would forfeit their prize. Nurses and corpsmens' duty hours ended but not their work. Linens, blankets, must be procured and new beds prepared. Blood plasma and fluids for restoration of the seriously ill after their long ride

over the mountains and bad roads from the dock to the hospital. The patient's proved to be the first group of abdominal, chest and head cases sent back from the holding hospitals on Leyte and included the largest number of seriously ill in any group of wounded admitted. Hot food and a liberal portion of X-mas cheer soon restored the spirits of the walking wounded and those not so bad off. Thus everything quieted down on the A, C, and D ramps that constituted 26 of the 42 surgical wards.

But B ramp presented a different scene. To these wards came the worst cases of all. Severe fractures, cases of gas gangrene, and those with wounds of head, chest or abdomen. First nurses and corpsmen made their rounds getting the patients settled as comfortably as possible, taking temperatures, distributing charts and X-Rays and attending to the personal needs of the patients. Then came the surgeons to make an appraisal of the patient's condition and to leave orders for ward care and treatment. Here plasma was ordered, there a blood transfusion. "Remove this one's cast and call me when you're finished!" "Hurry and get those dressings off!" Give pre-operative medication and schedule this man for operation at 0600!" "Continous azochloranide dressings, change every four hours day and night!" "Penicillin, 50,000 units every four hours!" "The same for this man with sulfadiazine routine as well!" "Get an oxygen tent for this boy immediately!" "This patient is dry, give him a liter of 500 glucose in saline." "Get a thoracentesis set and let me know you have it, his chest is full of fluid and must be tapped right now!" "Ah-here is a big abscess on the back-smell it?—Gas gangrene! What's the temperature? 105? Call the O. R. supervisor and have her prepare for incision and drainage on the ward-pentothal anesthesic!" A familiar scene to all who have cared for the wounded, after which came the feeding, bed making, charting, errands to the laboratory, surgical supply and X-Ray, cleaning up the ever present mud, care of linen and mess gear, and attending to the multiple needs of a man sick in bed. Enough in this to fill the day for twice the number of personnel. To these chores add professional duties ordinarily given only to interns in a civilian hospital. These performed by nurses and enlisted men in a manner which is the highest tribute to their training, ability to learn and their willingness to work.

Midnight comes, the surgery has been performed, transfusions given, drugs and dressings started, seriously ill reported as doing well, special nurses instructed. Then to the mess hall and choke down a few tired bites of food. Off to bed, the long hoarded bottle forgotten in the urge to sleep. Tomorrow is Christmas and those packages from home to be opened and the turkey dinner to be enjoyed. But there is an X-mas present for all—yes, another ship load of wounded Christmas morning.

THE WOMAN'S ANGLE

by Major Myrtle E. Arndt

The thrill of anticipation we all felt the day we left the Golden Gate behind us has been with the women of the 54th throughout the jungle. There were days, perhaps, when that thrill was covered with a layer of mud but it was always there. Of course the men had the same feeling, but with women, it was just different, somehow.

When we were sitting back in the US, the word "overseas" always sounded so glamorous. It took us only a matter of days to discover that the glamor was in the word "overseas" only. Being wet and muddy isn't glamorous and yet it's exciting.

During the sea-voyage everyone were slacks and seersuckers in order to "save" their new OD class "A" and dresses. The new clothes had been acquired at the POE and everyone wanted to look their best when they landed to conquer.

The debarking uniform consisted of fatigues. Well, that was all right. That was the proper uniform in which to climb down a rope ladder. The girls didn't climb down a rope ladder thank heavens but we didn't wear our new clothes either.

The "jungle" uniform consisted of khaki slacks, mud, shirts, mud, field shoes, mud and fatigues. Many girls seemed more feet than anything else because they wore men's shoes. Those being the only kind they could get at the time. Add leggings to that costume and you have a picture of what the well-dressed nurse wore in the jungle.

Instead of the Belle of the Evening appearing in a sweeping blue evening dress, silver slippers and a flower in her hair, she was a vision in khaki. Her hair was curled in the latest becoming fashion. Her make-up was just so. Her khaki shirt and slacks were starched and ironed to a razor sharpness. Her spotless leggings and mirror-polished shoes completed the picture.

Living in a barracks full of women was a part of overseas life accepted by all of us. It was like nothing we'd ever done before and like nothing we'll ever do again.

Thirty beds lined up in rows—eight feet of space reflecting individual taste—a minimum of space, a maximum of gear mosquito nets rolled neatly—rain dripping from the eaves—limp raincoats hanging from mosquito bars—clots of mud—heavy, soggy shoes—the smell of mildew—coffee can wastebaskets—irons cooling on the floor—waiting lines at the ironing boards and washing machines—percolators, gasoline stoves, electric grills—onion sandwiches at night—warm beer—whispered confidences at midnight—home permanents—rumors, rumors, rumors—yellow skins in the shower—the community latrines—mail time—rows of mosquito nets in the moonlight like so many cages—What memories!

TOKYO-END OF THE LINE

As the truck convoy sped along the thoroghfare we gawked and gaped at the sights like a bunch of tourists on their first jaunt. It was hard to believe that this was Ginza Street, the main artery of Tokyo. It was still harder to believe

that this was really Tokyo.

Our long line of trucks halted momentary in the very heart of downtown Tokyo and we had a first opportunity to look at the kaleidoscope of color that whirled around us, to listen to the cacophony of sound that assailed our ears. We were at the bottom of a canyon of tall buildings which arose on either side of us.....gaily colored kimonos and slacks came clattering by.....street cars, so crowded that passengers were hanging on the outside, went clanging down the street.... and the crowds, moving, shuffling, moving, as if there had never been a war and Japan was not defeated. That downtown scene was not unlike that of any large metropolis back home.

The convoy started up again. We passed large department stores, banks, business houses, hotels—but throughout it all ran a pattern of destruction. In between standing buildings would be piles of rubble, the remains of other buildings. Sometimes whole blocks or more would be leveled. Our B-29's had done a good job, but Tokyo was simply too large to be completely smashed without the aid

of, say, several atomic bombs.



Disembarking at Yokohama—At left, going down the last gangplank before 'Frisco, and below, waiting as usual, this time for trucks.





Here it is at last—the 70 pointers leave!

Then we turned into what was once one of the residential, interspersed with industrial, sections of Tokyo. We took bridges over several of the rivers that criss-cross the city. One of them was the Sumida, a rather pleasant and sedate-looking river, and there, running along the far side of it was the Tokyo Fraternity Memorial Hospital, the 54th's new home. It is interesting to note that the Japanese name for the this hospital is Do-Ai, which means, "Brotherly Love", and that it was built through a gift to the Japanese of well over a million dollars by the American people to aid them in their plight after the Great Earthquake of 1923.

As soon as we had been quartered in the hospital building, which, incidentally, was the first real building the outfit had ever lived in since coming overseas, we immediately began exploring the premises. And what a kick we got out of that! A real hospital, complete with wards and private rooms and labs and tile surgeries, workrooms and officers and elevators and a power plant. Many a chuckle was heard when a head poked into one of the latrines and discovered that in Japan they use "porcelin slit trenches" instead of the conventional seat. But it really was thrilling to see the fruits of victory, applied in a medical sense, in the form of a real honest-to-goodness hospital for the 54th's own use. Some difference from the pre-fab jobs of New Guinea!

Across the alley from the hospital was an industrial school which we knew was to be the enlisted men's quarters in the future, so we explored it with a critical eye and came to the conclusion that "it's not bad at all". Directly across the street from the school building was a typical example of modern Japan, the perfect story of East meets West: a pagoda style temple. Here, on the one hand, was a modern hospital and an up-to-date industrial school, while directly across the street was the quaint, centuries-old type architecture of a Japanese shrine.

On another side of the hospital was the crowning glory, a four-storied circular, domed theater building. In the main auditorium were a thousand seats by



THE GARDEN
BEHIND DO-AI THEATRE



125 tons of fruit was eaten in the 9 month operation period



Japan's sacred Mt. Fujiama

actual count, and there was a projection booth and large stage and screen and lights-in short, precisely like any theater in the states. And it was all our own. We couldn't help comparing it with the Pillbox at Hollandia or the hole-in-the-mud at Milne Bay. Behind the theater building was a beautiful walled Japanese garden filled with shrubberies and trees, through which ran a pleasant path, sometimes gravel, sometimes stone. And in the center was a miniature lake and several quaint little bridges. The whole scene was one of peace and quietness, of ease and relaxation, and we thought, "boy, whatta life!" The fruits of victory were very

Bit by bit the hospital began to take shape. Men moved into the school building, the theater was occupied, departments began setting up and the work

began of giving the whole hospital a general face-lifting. But what a difference from New Guinea or the Philippines! Instead of us Joes doing all the dirty work we had scores and scores of Jap laborers to handle a good portion of the job: we ate the best chow we ever had since coming overseas, and ate it in style, too, with Japanese waiters to collect our trays and wash them; and we slept in beds with real mattresses and pillows. The cold climate disturbed us the first couple weeks, we had been in the tropics so long, but with the addition of field jackets and sweaters and OD's we got along pretty good. And, of course, we used hot water showers and drank free-issue Jap beer and even had our clothes pressed, as well as laundered. Yes, Occupation meant one good deal after another. Of course, most all of us still wanted to go home, but after just a few weeks of Japan we were all agreed that it was better to sweat out a return to the States from here than from just about any place overseas. It certainly was nice, for instance, to walk into your own theater (steam heated, mind you) and sit on a real seat under a substantial roof so that you could say "hang the rain" and watch a picture or stage show in comfort. Or else you could go down to the National Gym and plop into a seat and watch the 54th basketball team knock off the opposition.

Finally our first contingent of nurses arrived, 25 to be exact, and we noted they

were all new to the 54th. All the old familiar faces were gone. And then it was only a few days later, on November 13, that we admitted our first patients in Japan, and we were happy to think that they and all the others to follow would never be battle casualties.

The personnel of the 54th are just as curious and just as souvenir-hungry as any other unit in the armed forces, sometimes, it seemed, even more so. Immediately we began spreading out throughout Tokyo, exploring every hidden nook and corner of the city. Kimonos and dolls and Samurai swords were among the most popular souvenir items, and it wasn't unusual to see of our GI's coming back staggering under the weight of several boxes filled with one thing and another. Then there were those who wanted a closer insight on Japanese thoughts and mode of living and would visit homes and have Jap acquaintances all over the city. Many of the guys were seeking usually with success something stronger to drink than coffee, and then there were those who just wanted to sit down at a nice, clean table in a nice, clean hotel for a nice, clean meal. Of course, something highly popular with a good portion of the unit was the Geisha Girl and "4th stop and 9th stop" will live long in the memories of those who rode the "el" in that direction.

The "el", or elevated train, incidentally, was the most popular method of travel. It could take you to the farthest reaches of the city, whether it was to attend a lecture or athletic event, search for souvenirs, visit Japs or look in on the Geisha establishments. Some, though, rode the street cars or busses, while there were those who preferred the subway. All were free to the occupation forces, It didn't, however, make much difference what type transportation you used - they all were terrifically crowded. Japs seemed to be always coming or going somewhere, but, for that matter, so were you. Naturally, with all that travel we saw plenty of the city and surrounding countryside, and many of us could never quite get over seeing block on block of rubble, with here and there a smokestack dotting the landscape surrounded by only more rubble. In spots the city was terribly smashed, yet there was still much left standing: all the modern architecture of a modern civilization, while interspersed among it would be the ancient pagodas of the East.

There came a day when all the men with 70 points and over and all men 35 years old and over were sent to a Replacement Depot to be sent home for discharge. It was the first large mass exodus of old-timers in the unit since it was formed. And we had a funny feeling standing there in the street, presenting arms for a last goodbye, for so many of that bunch had been with the outfit from the very beginning. After that the 54th kept on shrinking as we began transferring out more and more of our longtime men to other outfits, men who had buddied with us through Ellis and Riley. Milne Bay, Hollandia and Batangas before coming here. But it couldn't be helped. We were over-strenghth and had to send out the higher point men so that the new low point men would be available for duty as the critical point score kept being dropped. And still it continues, as this is written. We are now down close to the end of the trail, to the day when the 54th will be no more, neither in name nor in personnel. For soon the designation of the unit will be changed and by that time most of the veterans of the 54th will be gone and it will be only a memory.

AWARDS

MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE AWARD

Under the provisions of Section I, War Department Circular No. 345, 23 August 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded to the following unit for superior attainment in the performance of exceptionally difficult assignments and the achievement of high standard of morale and discipline between the dates indicated.

54th General Hospital, from 4 August 1944 to 30 April 1945.

BRONZE STAR MEDALS

For Meritorious Achievement

M Sgt Howard W. Brown
M Sgt Donald R. Dawson
M Sgt Johnnie L. Johnson
M Sgt John E. Peterson
M Sgt Herbert R. Thurlow
1st Sgt Gabriel T. Olga
T Sgt Clarence C. Girodat
T Sgt Jack Tozzi
Tec 4 Charles R. Conway
Tec 4 William R. Schick
Tec 4 Edward P. Soinski
Pfc James W. Miller

1st Lt Elva R. O'Brien 1st Lt Mary S. Ryan

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Major Edward E. Lyon

Capt Robert T. Hendricks

HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICE COMMAND C OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

GENERAL ORDERS

APO 404

NUMBER 75

8 December 1945

INACTIVATION OF CERTAIN MEDICAL CORPS UNITS

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in War Department Radio WOL 21668, dated 18 November 1945, AFPAC Radio CX 21242, dated 21 November 1945, and letter, Headquarters Eighth Army, file AG 321 (Med) (FE), subject: "Letter Order No. 12-7 (Inactivation of Certain Medical Corps Units)", dated 2 December 1945, and under provisions of War Department Readjustment Regulations 1-6, the following listed unit is inactivated effective 10 Pecember 1945 at present station as indicated:

UNIT

STATION

54th General Hospital

Tokyo

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL HYSSONG:

OFFICIAL:

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Signed

Brigadier General, USA

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Colonel, AGD

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25 May 1943 to 10 Dec. 1945

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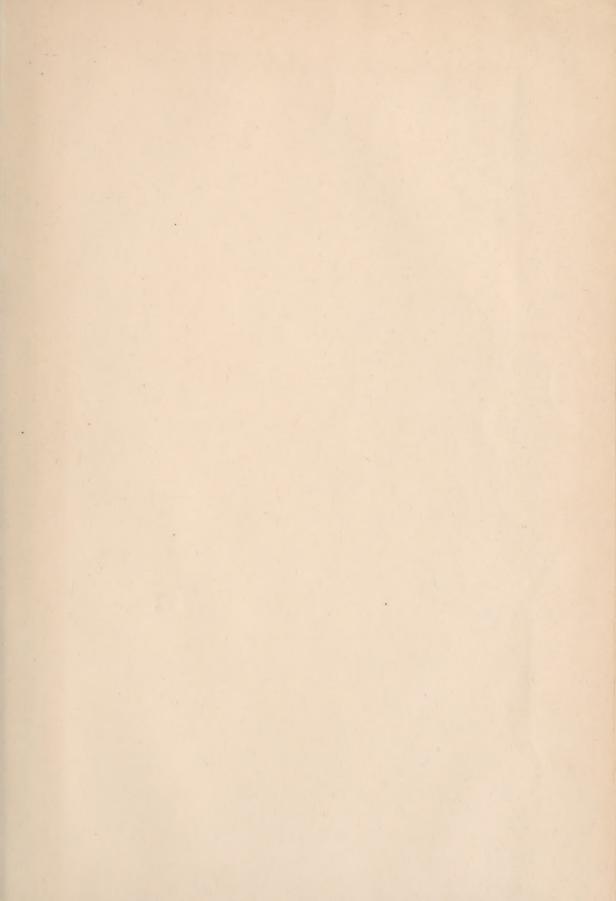
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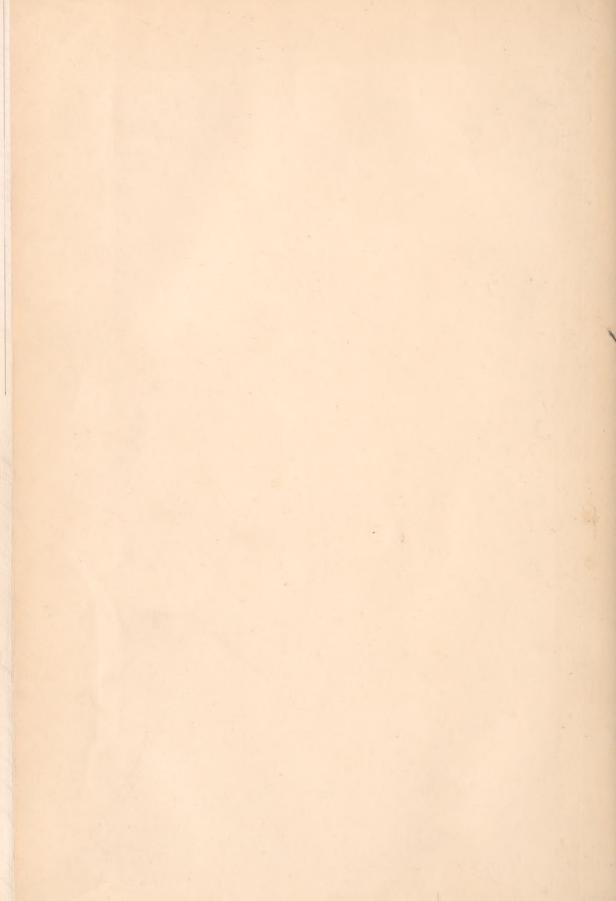












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